



# March Towards Smart Bangladesh Following the Path of Sustainable Development

## National Budget Speech 2024-25

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## Chapter 1

### Tribute

#### Madam Speaker

1. At the outset of presenting the budget for the FY2024-25 before this august House, I recall with deep and humble respect the greatest Bengali of all time, the great architect of independence, the pioneer of the dreams of all the citizens of Bangladesh, our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I remember with deep respect our Shaheed Bangamata and the family members of Bangabandhu who sacrificed their lives in the fateful night of August 15, 1975 by the brutal attack of the cruel conspirators against our sovereignty.

I also remember with profound respect Bangabandhu's most competent comrades, the four national leaders who embraced martyrdom in the central jail.

I recall with great love and respect all those undaunting heroic freedom fighters who took up arms without hesitation, fought with endless courage and dedicated their lives to bring smiles to the faces of the people of this country.

I pray to the Almighty for the salvation of all the departed souls.

Remembering with deep respect our mothers and sisters who were brutally persecuted during the war of liberation. It is their sacrifice that brightens the flag of our independence.

**Madam Speaker**

2. With your kind permission, now I would like to present the Supplementary Budget for the FY2023-24 and the proposed Budget for the FY2024-25 before this esteemed Parliament.

## **Chapter 2**

### **The pledge for building happy, prosperous, developed and smart Bangladesh**

#### **Madam Speaker**

3. Bangabandhu's dream in his long struggling and glorious political life was to establish Bangladesh as a dignified state in the world and take the people of this country to the peak of development. He expected nothing in return. He spent 4682 days in jail, defied the potential danger of death with supreme courage. Bangladesh and the people of this country were at the heart of all his dreams and plans.

4. Bangabandhu could not see the full realization of his dreams. He did not get enough time to implement the action plan he had worked out to change the fate of the people of this country, as the conspirators laid the network of conspiracies to jeopardize the sovereignty of this country. I express my profound gratitude to the Almighty Allah as we are progressing towards fulfillment of his dream under the dynamic leadership of his capable daughter, pride of our nation Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Considering its socio-economic development Bangladesh is a great wonder before the world. The incredible development that has taken place in all fields including social, financial, physical infrastructure, information and communication technology, human resources, health, science in the last one and a half decades has laid the foundation for building Smart Bangladesh. Bangladesh has become the role model today to other developing nations of the world.

Now I am presenting an overview of our progress achieved in the last 15 years since 2009:

- Bangladesh has earned the status of a dynamic and fast-growing economic power in the last decade and a half. The average growth of gross national income was more than 6.7 percent during this period and the per capita income was Taka 2 lakh 73 thousand 360 at the end of the FY2022-23. Bangladesh is the 33rd largest economy in the world according to the size of the GDP estimated in 2023.
- The poverty rate fell to 18.7 percent and the extreme poverty rate to 5.6 percent during the same period. Currently the life expectancy of our population is 72.8 years, 98.8 percent have access to safe drinking water and 97.32 percent people are using sanitary latrines and the infant mortality rate has fallen to 21 per thousand and maternal mortality to 161 per lakh.
- In the last 15 years, the power generation capacity has increased 6 times to 30,277 MW. The rate of beneficiaries of electricity has increased by 4 times and as a result 100 percent of the population of Bangladesh has been brought under the coverage of electricity.
- In the last decade and a half, the health sector achieved an incredible success. During this time, the number of beds in the government hospital has doubled to 71 thousand, the number of government doctors has increased by 3 times to 30 thousand 173, the number of government nurses has increased by 3 times to 44 thousand 357. The number of nursing colleges and institutions increased from 31 to 99. A total of 14,311 community clinics were constructed. 27 categories of medicines are being provided free of cost from the community clinics and union health centres.
- Our success in the education sector is also enviable. The literacy rate that was 45 percent in 2006, rose to 76.8 percent in 2023. The participation of girls in primary education was 54 percent, which is currently 98.25 percent. Enrolment rate in technical education was

0.8 percent in 2006, which has increased 22 times to 17.88 percent in 2023.

- The total production of grain crops has increased 4 times from 1.80 crore metric tons to 4.92 crore metric tonnes, the total fish production has increased 2.5 times from 21.30 lakh metric tons to 53.14 lakh metric tonnes, the number of cattle heads increased from 4 crore 23 lakhs 1 thousand to almost 2 times to 7 crore 98 lakh 78 thousand, the number of poultry increased almost 3 times from 18 crore 6 lakh 22 thousand to 52 crore 79 lakh 19 thousand.
- We have almost tripled the district, regional and national highways from 12 thousand 18 km to 32 thousand 678 km and increased 76 times the rural roads from 3 thousand km 133 km to 2 lakh 37 thousand 446 km.
- The total railway has increased by one and a half times from 2 thousand 356 km to 3 thousand 486 km.
- Internet usage of the total population has increased 342 times from 0.23 percent to 78.55 percent between 2006 and 2023. During this period, the active number of mobile phone SIM has increased about 10 times from 1 crore 90 to 18 crore 86 lakhs 40 thousand, the number of digital services (by government agencies) reached 8 to 3 thousand 200 with an increase of 400 times, one stop center increased from 2 to 8 thousand 928, the number of government websites increased to 52 thousand 200 from only 98 with an increase of 533 times.
- The amount of ICT goods/services exported in 2006 was USD21 million, which increased to USD1.9 billion. The number of IT Freelancers increased from 200 to 6 lakh 80 thousand. Bangladesh occupies the 2<sup>nd</sup> position considering the number of Freelancers.

**Madam Speaker**

5. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman told in his speech before the 29th General Assembly of the United Nations in 1974 that, "We are looking forward to a world where man can achieve huge success through incredible progress of science and technology. Through equitable distribution of all resources and technological know-how of the world, a door of welfare will be opened where a minimum guarantee will prevail for a happy and dignified life of every human being". Bearing this vision of the Father of the Nation in mind and the Hon'ble Prime Minister's dream of building Smart Bangladesh, we have already started implementing a well-thought-out action plan. We have taken steps in achieving the target so that the people of this country can reach the peak of development keeping pace with the speed of development of technologies across the world.

6. Bangabandhu laid the highest emphasis on science, information and communication technology to build a modern and technology driven country. He implemented the Earth Resource Technology Satellite Program, set up the Betbunia Satellite Ground Station, achieved the membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), established Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited (TSS) and Bangladesh Cable Industries Company, he ordered for the production of technology products in the country, established Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) in the shortest span of time.

**Madam Speaker**

7. His worthy successor, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, announced the establishment of Digital Bangladesh in 2008 and formulated Vision 2021 and Perspective Plan 2010-2021 to implement it for advancing the dream of building a technology-driven, developed, prosperous Bangladesh. To implement this seamlessly, we have already

achieved the goal of implementing Digital Bangladesh. Awami League has formed the government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the fifth time in 2024 focusing on the vision of 'Smart Bangladesh where Development is visible and employment will increase this time' ('স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ: উন্নয়ন দৃশ্যমান, বাড়দব এবার কমটসংস্থান') Our main goal now is to build a smart, prosperous country for our future generations based on the solid foundation of Digital Bangladesh laid in the past terms of Awami League.

8. In the context of the fourth industrial revolution, Smart Bangladesh will be realized using artificial intelligence type cutting-edge technologies of which there will be four pillars such as Smart Citizens, Smart Economy, Smart Government and Smart Society. In our 'Smart Bangladesh', the per capita income will be at least US\$ 12,500; less than 3 percent of people will be below the poverty line and extreme poverty will be reduced to zero; inflation will be limited between 4-5 percent; budget deficit will remain below 5 percent of GDP; revenue-GDP ratio will be above 20 percent; investment will be 40 percent of GDP. We will achieve 100 percent digital economy and science and technology-based literacy. Healthcare will reach everyone's doorstep. All the services required by the citizens will be at their door steps, including automatic communication system and sustainable urbanization. A paperless and cashless society will be created. Most importantly, a society based on justice and equality will be established in Smart Bangladesh.

9. People of Bangladesh are very intelligent, creative and hard working. It is possible to enhance their innovative capacity and creativity through the proper use of technology. To this end, short, medium and long-term goals and action plans are being carefully formulated to build a discrimination-free, developed and smart Bangladesh. I will dwell upon this in detail later while presenting the narrative on sector-wise resource mobilization.

**Madam Speaker**

10. As you know, the Awami League has formed the government for the fourth time in a row with a landslide victory in the National Parliament elections held in January this year. We have given special emphasis on a total of 11 issues in our Election Manifesto this year, which include making every effort to keep prices within the reach of all; ensuring Vocational Education and employment for youth; building modern technology-driven smart Bangladesh; comprehensive agricultural system targeting profitable agriculture; increasing investment in mechanization and processing; expanding industries by leveraging visible infrastructure and increasing investment; increasing efficiency and capacity in financial sectors including banking sectors; making health care facilities affordable to low-income people; inclusion of all in the universal pension system; ensuring the effectiveness and accountability of law enforcement agencies; eradicating all forms of communalism, terrorism and extremism; and promoting the protection and practice of democratic systems at all levels.

11. All these priorities will be the main basis of channeling of resources in the budget of this year. Emphasis will be laid on the following activities to transform Bangladesh into a developed, prosperous and smart country by 2041:

- Maintaining economic stability
- Ensuring an educational environment conducive to science education, scientific research and innovation
- Providing necessary support to agriculture sector and ensuring food security
- Improving and expanding basic health services
- Ensuring provision of training for the youth and self-employment

- Using technology at all levels including digitizing all possible services
- Developing physical infrastructure
- Optimising utilization of marine resources
- Ensuring disciplines in the financial sector
- Eliminating extreme poverty by 2031 and lowering general poverty rate to 3 percent by 2041.
- Ensuring conducive environment for setting up industries and investment
- Taking steps to combat the effects of climate change
- Developing public welfare oriented, accountable, efficient and smart administration
- Continuing zero tolerance policy against corruption

**Madam Speaker**

12. The people of this country are the real claimants of all our glorious achievements. Utilizing their strength, today we are moving ahead under the visionary and strong leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. In the meanwhile, we have earned the status of a middle-income country fulfilling all the necessary conditions. Now it's time to move forward. To implement the pledges that we have included in our Election Manifesto for building a developed, prosperous, smart Bangladesh, we will ensure proper employment for all the capable persons, agricultural development, promotion of investment and industry, access to proper health and education, as well as ensure security of standard of living. Above all, the main objective of this year's budget will be to lay the foundation for the implementation of the commitments made in the Election Manifesto.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Challenges for Bangladesh in the Global Perspective and Medium-Term Policy Strategy**

**Madam Speaker**

13. Now, I shall briefly focus on the challenges in the global context that might create risks for the macroeconomic stability of Bangladesh. Then, I will bring to your attention some of the policy-strategies that the Government will follow in its first national budget to tackle those challenges.

#### **(1) Global Context and Challenges for Bangladesh**

**Inflation**

**Madam Speaker**

14. We have successfully managed the adverse effects of Covid-19 on the economy. However, the geopolitical instability of the world has created fresh risks for us. The Russia-Ukraine war that began in 2022 pushed the price of crude oil up to USD 120 per barrel in the world market in June that year. As a result, the prices of essential goods including wheat and fertilizer sky-rocketed. This instability in the commodity market of the world pushed up inflation in all countries including Bangladesh. The inflation rate reached 9 percent in the USA during June 2022. The concern for the disruption of the supply chain at the beginning of Ukraine-Russia war dispelled to a large extent later. As a result, the prices of fuel, gas, fertilizer, wheat etc. came down significantly. The inflation rate of USA and our neighbouring India

stood 3.48 and 4.85 percent respectively in March 2024. According to the projection made by IMF during April this year, the world inflation rate will decrease to 3.9 percent by 2027. However, the inflation rate in Bangladesh remains stubborn at above 9 percent.

15. Although the disruption in the supply chain in the domestic market is the main reason for spiralling inflation, the other reason is the devaluation of taka against foreign currency. When the impact of Covid-19 slowed down in 2021-22, the businesses gathered the momentum. As a result, the trade deficit exceeded over USD 35 billion which essentially created pressure on the foreign exchange reserve and the exchange rate. The gross foreign exchange reserve stood at USD 39.6 billion in July 2022-23 which went down to USD 24.22 billion in May this year. To stabilize the foreign exchange market, the Bangladesh Bank had to sell off approximately USD 22 billion from the reserve. This also caused the decline of reserve. In this context, Bangladeshi taka was devalued approximately by 25.5 percent against US dollar. This devaluation increased the price of imported goods which had an impact on the overall inflation of the country.

### **Interest Rate**

16. Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) which is used as one of the reference rates around the world was only 0.5% in January 2022. To tackle the inflationary situation arising from the Ukraine-Russia war, most of the developed countries including USA increased the interest rate. As a result, the 6-month average of SOFR increased and stood at 5.4% in May 2024. For the same reason the other developed nations including those in Europe enhanced the interest rate which affected the reference rate of EURIBOR, TONA etc.

17. Bangladesh is thus facing pressure from two sides simultaneously. It is observed that the capital outflows in the external

sector is showing bullish trend as opposed to the reduced inflow of capital. This opposite trend increases the deficit in financial accounts on the one hand and creates the burden of repayment of foreign loans on the other. The interest payment of foreign loans exceeded USD 1 billion in the last FY2022-23. If the forecast that the interest rate will decline in the USA and in other developed nations is not correct, this trend will continue in the future as well.

### **Growth in Revenue Collection**

18. If we want to enhance public expenditure of the government, there is no alternative to the growth of the revenue collection. Bangladesh stands far behind compared to the comparator countries in revenue collection. The Tax-GDP ratio is below 8% in last one decade in Bangladesh. The same ratio is 16.98%, 11.59%, 14.03% and 15.57% in India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand respectively. If we want to fulfil the development targets in the medium term, it is extremely important that we achieve the Tax-GDP ratio over 10%.

### **Transformative Technology and Human Resources Development**

19. Expatriate workers are the driving force of our economy. Their remittance plays an important role in ensuring good living of their family members. It also contributes to strengthening our foreign exchange reserve. The opportunity for our unskilled and semi-skilled migrant workers may narrow down in the overseas market in future since we are observing revolutionary transformation of technology caused by artificial intelligence (AI), Robot and other machine-dependent production system due to the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (IR). We must, therefore, take initiatives to create a conducive environment for the new generation so that they can acquire necessary skills and knowledge to face the challenges arising out of 4<sup>th</sup> IR. Side by side, we

have to create opportunities for upskilling and reskilling them to meet the global standards.

### **Climate Change**

20. Even though Bangladesh remains one of the least GHG emitting countries in the world it is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 by Germanwatch, Bangladesh stood seventh among the countries that are most exposed to the climate risk. Our agricultural land and agricultural production are at the risk of damage due to the increasing number of climate refugees, sea level rise and increasing intensity of temperature mainly induced by climate change. Considering these, we have taken up different programmes and have started implementing them accordingly to build resilience against the adverse effects of climate change. We have already prepared plans like National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCP), Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

### **Graduation from the Least Development Countries**

21. Bangladesh has achieved phenomenal growth in the last one decade and a half under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Our achievements in social indices are also unprecedented. Following these successes, Bangladesh will graduate formally from the least developed countries in 2026. Subsequent to the graduation, the rules and regulations related to international trade will be applicable to Bangladesh as they are applicable to the developed and developing countries. Preferential tariff and quota free access to the market in different countries that are being enjoyed by our exporters currently will be abolished. Cash incentives that are currently given for exporting goods have to be withdrawn gradually. At the same time, we

have to decrease the import duty periodically. As a result, our producers who are getting extra benefits for exporting goods will face open competition. To survive in the changed realities, our local industries must innovate new strategies and skills.

22. We must work together to make this graduation seamless and sustainable by applying new and advanced technology in production, improving quality of the products, innovating new products, capacity building of our workers and diversifying products etc. The government of Bangladesh set up a high-level committee to make policies against the probable adverse effects which may arise after the graduation. The committee and sub-committees formed under this committee have determined various strategies based on which Bangladesh is preparing for the challenges arising from the upcoming graduation.

## **(2) Sector-wise Planning and Medium-Term Policy Strategy**

### **Madam Speaker**

23. At the heart of our medium-term policy strategy and sector wise strategies is taming inflation, managing high interest rate in the global financial market and devaluation of taka against foreign currencies, coping with climate change and developing human resources suitable for surviving with 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revaluation (IR). Apart from that, this policy strategy considers other pledges set out in the 2024 election manifesto of the government which will ultimately build developed, sustainable, and smart Bangladesh.

24. Bangladesh has already undertaken contractionary monetary policy in line with steps taken by other countries in the world to control inflation. The interest rate has been increased significantly. Policy interest rate increased to 8.5 percent, Standing Lending Facility (SLF)

rate increased to 10 percent and Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) increased to 7 percent. Besides, Six Months Treasury Bill based Interest Rate Determination System (SMART) has been abolished and made market-based. The demand for loan and the interest rate will be determined based on the supply of credit and the relationship between bankers and customers. To control inflation, various steps are being taken to make the monetary policy a successful one. At the same time, supportive policies are being implemented in the fiscal sector as well. Government support like Family Card and OMS Programs are being strengthened to protect the common people from adversities arising from high inflation. We are expecting that the inflation rate will come down to 6.5 percent in the next fiscal year as an outcome of the policy-strategies that we have adopted.

25. The GDP growth is maintaining its momentum because of the implementation of prudent and appropriate policy measures. The average growth rate between FY 2009-10 to 2022-23 was 6.71 percent, one of the highest among all countries in the world. It may be noted that the country achieved a record GDP growth rate of 7.88 percent in FY 2018-19 just a year before Covid-19 pandemic. Despite all adversities caused by Russia-Ukraine war and other global unrests, Bangladesh managed to achieve 7.10 percent, 5.78 percent and 5.82 percent (provisional) growth in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively which is a testament to the inherent strength of our economy. To maintain this growth in future, all reasonable supports will be continued to encourage the agricultural and industrial production. Side by side, proper implementation of important infrastructural projects and adoption of appropriate action plan aimed at increasing export earnings and remittances will be helpful for achieving the desired GDP growth. It is expected that pursuing all the prudent policy measures will help achieve GDP growth of 6.75 percent in the next fiscal year and 7.25 percent in the medium term.

26. As a result of various steps taken by the government, the export earnings increased five times to USD 55.56 billion in FY2022-23 compared to FY 2005-06. During July-April of FY2023-24, the export earnings reached USD 47.5 billion, which is 3.93 percent higher than the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The import decreased by 15.81 percent in FY2022-23 due to the reduction of import of less important and luxury consumer goods which essentially eased the pressure on our foreign exchange reserve. This policy of controlling the import of less important and luxury consumer goods continued in the current fiscal year and the import volume during July-March has decreased by 15.5 percent compared to the same period of the previous year.

27. During July-May period of the current fiscal year, a total of USD 21.3 billion of remittances repatriated into the country which is around 9.82 percent higher than the remittances of the same period in the last fiscal year. The Current Account stood at a surplus of USD 5.8 billion at the end of March this year since the exports continued to grow, non-essential imports fell, and remittances picked up compared to the previous fiscal year. The ‘Crawling Peg’ system has been introduced as a primary measure to make the exchange rate market-based. As a result, exports will be encouraged and remittances through official channel will increase as well. Though the financial account is facing a deficit, it is expected that it will reduce in the medium-run and foreign exchange reserve will continue to grow. The exchange rate of taka will gain again once the reserve is stabilized.

28. It is essential to enhance the capacity of revenue collection and increase the total amount of revenue for ensuring implementation of medium and long-term development plans. The government has already taken various steps to remove the existing limitations of revenue collection and narrow the scope of tax evasion. In addition, various

reforms are being implemented for enhancing revenue collection. Administrative capacity building of National Board of Revenue (NBR), expansion of tax base, automation in revenue collection and management system and programmes for automation to reduce the human interface have been undertaken to raise the tax-GDP ratio to 10%. Simplification has been brought in the tax payment system and submission of online tax system has been introduced to augment the income tax (IT) revenue. Recently, income tax revenue increased slightly following the introduction of document verification (DVS) and expansion of Electronic Tax Deduction at Source (E-TDS). However, there is a likelihood of decreased income from import duty because of graduation from the LDC status, signing free or preferential trade agreements with various nations and organizations and compliance of conditions of WTO. In this context, Income Tax and VAT (Value Added Tax) will be the main sources of financing. I am hopeful that the pace of revenue mobilisation will be increased through comprehensive co-ordination between various tax/revenue collecting agencies, increasing transparency by using technology, cordial behaviour with taxpayers, proper implementation of the Income Tax Act 2023, introduction of the Customs Act 2023 and seeking co-operation from private sectors.

29. Our goal is to build a happy, prosperous, developed, and smart Bangladesh by 2041. To achieve this goal, necessary infrastructure, research and innovation, skilled human resources, export diversification and expansion of market, using technology in service delivery and conducive investment environment will be ensured. Besides, existing incentives to the agriculture sector will be continued since food security is of highest importance here. In this context, we have given the highest priority to the education, health, agriculture, local government and rural development, power, communication, and Science and Technology sector in our budget.

30. It is essential to explore all possible areas of resource extraction and ensure optimal utilization of resources for economic development. The economic development of Bangladesh will gather pace if we can utilize the opportunities arising from the settlement of our maritime boundaries with Myanmar and India in 2012 and 2014 respectively. Therefore, we have laid emphasis on taking advantages of Blue Economy including deep sea fishing, extracting mineral resources from seabed in this budget.

31. The rapid evolution of technology that we are observing because of 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (IR) is unprecedented. This evolution exposed the immense possibilities before us on the one hand and threatens increasing unemployment due to creative destruction and shrinking access to the export market. The risk of reducing agriculture land, pollution due to excessive industrialization and shortage of fresh water supply are likely to increase. To overcome these risks, I have laid bare the activities that are being carried out and will be undertaken in the future in the subsequent chapters.

32. Inflation is one of our main challenges at present. To control inflation, we gave highest priority on decreasing demand and increasing supply in the past two budgets. In this context, to achieve macroeconomic objectives, supportive fiscal policies, such as reducing budget expenditure, discouraging less important expenditures and various austerity measures have been adopted alongside pursuing a contractionary monetary policy. Despite these measures, inflation in the country remains persistently above 9 percent primarily due to import-induced price increases and disruptions in the domestic supply chain. Therefore, we will follow fiscal consolidation as well as the reduction of the budget deficit, and will continue budget belt-tightening measures, even if on a limited scale in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. However, if this approach is continued for the long term, the growth rate

may slow down. Therefore, our goal will be to increase government spending gradually in the second half of the upcoming fiscal year. This will be possible if the revenue realisation increases. To this end, we will lay emphasis on removing tax exemptions gradually.

**Madam Speaker**

33. Bangabandhu's Bangladesh is a country of immense potential. With the aim of building a smart, prosperous, and happy Bangladesh by 2041, we are moving forward without any respite under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Considering the economic problems and opportunities, the policy strategies for building smart Bangladesh have been detailed in the "Medium-Term Macroeconomic Policy Statement." This policy statement has been presented alongside the budget speech.

**Madam Speaker**

34. At this stage, I am presenting the supplementary budget for the ongoing FY2023-24 and the budget for the upcoming FY2024-25 before this august House. I must acknowledge here that before preparing the budget I have discussed with the eminent economists, journalists, hon'ble members of the Parliament, and representatives of the civil society along with people from all spheres of society and tried my level best to incorporate their valuable opinions in the budget.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Supplementary Budget for FY2023-24**

#### **Madam Speaker**

35. Considering the overall progress of revenue collection and expenditure, some revisions and adjustments have been made to the budget for the current FY2023-24. A brief summary of the revised budget has been included in Appendix "A" as Table-3.

36. Proposed Revised Revenue Income: Until March 2024 of the current fiscal year, revenue collection has been increased by 11.26 percent. Considering this growth in revenue collection, I propose to set the revenue collection target at Tk. 4,78,000 crore in the supplementary budget for the FY2023-24.

37. Proposed Revised Expenditure: In the budget for the FY2023-24, the total government expenditure was estimated at a total of Tk. 7,61,785 crore. However, considering the overall progress of expenditure until April, the government expenditure is proposed to be reduced by Tk. 47,367 crore, bringing it down to Tk. 7,14,418 crore in the revised budget. Of this, the allocation for annual development programs is proposed to be Tk. 2,45,000 crore by reducing Tk. 18,000 crore from original allocation of Tk. 2,63,000 crore.

38. Revised Budget Deficit and Financing: In the budget for the current fiscal year, a deficit of Tk. 2,61,785 crore was projected. In the revised budget, a deficit of Tk. 2,36,418 crore is proposed, which is 4.7 percent of GDP. It is noteworthy that in the original budget, the deficit was projected at 5.2 percent of GDP. In the revised budget, out of the total deficit, the deficit amounting to Tk. 1,56,625 crore is proposed to be financed from domestic sources and deficit amounting to Tk. 79,793 crore is proposed to be financed from foreign sources.

## Chapter 5

### Proposed Budget for FY2024-25

#### Madam Speaker

39. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Awami League has formed the government for the fifth time. With the determination to take Bangladesh to the zenith of development in continuation of the legacy of the stunning economic development of Bangladesh over the past one decade and a half, the Election Manifesto of the Government laid emphasis on containing inflation, ensuring employment for youth, building a modern and smart Bangladesh, developing agriculture and physical infrastructure, and fixing priorities on health and other sectors. Bearing in mind these priorities, a roadmap has been laid out in the budget for the next fiscal year to achieve our national development goals.

40. At this stage, I will focus on the framework of the budget for the upcoming FY2024-25. I have presented a detailed picture of the proposed income and expenditure for the next fiscal year in Appendix "A": Table 4.

41. To enhance domestic resource mobilization and collection in the last fiscal year, several steps were taken with the aim of building modern, technology-driven, and more citizen-friendly tax payment and collection system. Moreover, the National Board of Revenue is undertaking an analytical work with the aim of rationalizing tax exemption and achieving targeted revenue collection in the medium-term. It is to be noted that in the FY 2009-10, the total tax revenue

collection amounted to only Tk. 62,485 crore, which has increased nearly sixfold to Tk. 3,66,776 crore in FY2022-23. It is anticipated that in the current FY2023-24, it will further increase to Tk. 4,29,000 crore. Strategy papers are being prepared to maintain the momentum of such growth rate and to achieve tax-GDP ratio over 10 percent in the medium term.

42. Since approximately 87 percent of revenue comes from the sources of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the workforces have been increased of the National Board of Revenue to further strengthen the activities of NBR. Besides, new income tax laws and customs laws have been enacted in 2023. The A-challan system has been introduced to ensure easy and direct deposit of revenue into government treasuries. Plans are being prepared to increase the use of electronic fiscal devices gradually to enhance VAT collection. Furthermore, several procedural reforms are underway to improve the tax collection and payment methods.

43. There is also a significant potential for increasing our non-tax revenue. In many cases, the rate at which non-tax revenue is collected is much lower against the services provided by the government. Work is in progress to prepare a comprehensive database of the rates of all government services, and a pilot project has already been taken up with six ministries to incorporate the non-tax revenue rates in this database. It is expected that as a result of all these initiatives, the target set for revenue collection, both in the short and medium term, will be achieved.

44. Given all these reforms and initiatives to augment revenue collection, a total of Tk. 5,41,000 crore revenue income has been estimated for FY2024-25, which accounts for 9.7 percent of the GDP.

Of which, it is proposed to collect Tk. 4,80,000 through the National Board of Revenue, and Tk. 61,000 crore from other sources.

45. For the upcoming FY2024-25, the budget size has been estimated to be Tk. 7,97,000 crore, which is 14.2 percent of the GDP. A total of Tk. 5,32,000 crore is proposed to be allocated for other expenditures including operating expenditure and Tk. 2,65,000 crore is proposed to be allocated for the Annual Development Program.

46. While allocating resources emphasis has been given on the resource allocations for the Annual Development Program for investment and development of physical infrastructure. In addition, special importance has been given on the compulsory education, health, science, and technology for the development of human resource and knowledge-based society. A comprehensive detail of sector wise allocations in Annual Development Program has been provided in Table 5 of Appendix A.

47. Overall expenditure framework: Our total expenditure framework has been divided into three divisions: Social infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and common service sector. The details have been presented in Table 5 of Appendix A.

48. In the proposed budget, a total allocation of Tk. 2,06,569 crore has been proposed for the social infrastructure, which constitutes 25.92 percent of the total allocation. For physical infrastructure, an allocation of Tk. 2,16,111 crore has been proposed, which constitutes 27.12 percent of the total allocation. For common service sector, an allocation of Tk. 1,68,701 crore has been proposed, which comprises 21.17 percent of the total allocation. It is worthy of note that since 2022, the interest rate has been gradually increased with the aim of controlling inflation in

the western world. As a result, we also had to increase the interest rate in our country, and simultaneously, there has been a significant depreciation of the currency against the US dollar. In the budget for FY2024-25, the expenditure on interest payments may increase significantly in this context. Therefore, a total of Tk. 1,13,500 crore has been allocated for this purpose, which constitutes 14.24 percent of the total allocation.

49. Budget Deficit and Financing: Our prudent and pragmatic macroeconomic policy has kept our debt management relatively risk-free, as mentioned in the reports of International Monetary Fund. Despite the increase in expenditure for loan and interest payment due to the depreciation of foreign currency over the past two years, our deficit and borrowing will remain sustainable in our overall budget. In the proposed budget for FY2024-25, the estimated deficit will stand at Tk. 2,56,000 crore, which is 4.6 percent of GDP. The deficit was estimated to be 5.2 percent in the previous budget. Within the total proposed budget deficit, I propose Tk. 1,60,900 billion from domestic sources and Tk. 95,100 billion from foreign sources for financing.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Sectoral Priorities, Action Plan and Resource Mobilization**

#### **Madam Speaker**

50. At this stage, I am presenting the sector wise action plan and proposing budget allocation.

51. While formulating this year's budget, emphasis has been given on the pressure of inflation, adequate allocation for education and health services for all, food security, building smart Bangladesh, graduation from LDC status, facilitation of business process, climate change, expansion of investment and industry by encouraging private enterprises. Apart from this, special priority has been given to important issues like ensuring youth employment by promoting vocational education and protecting the population lacking social security.

#### **Madam Speaker**

52. The overall status of sector wise budget allocation is provided in Table 6 of Annexure A. Next, I am presenting the sector-wise specific action plans.

#### **(1) Taking initiatives for education sector and development of skilled human resources**

#### **Madam Speaker**

53. Smart citizens will be instrumental to building a developed, prosperous and smart Bangladesh by 2041. Therefore, we need to

properly train our future generation in science, technology and technical education to achieve the dream of building smart Bangladesh. In this context, creating a science and technology-based, skill-enhancing and creative learning environment and ensuring employment-friendly education system and youth employment have been identified as the special priorities in our election manifesto.

### **Primary and mass education**

#### **Madam Speaker**

54. A child's knowledge base is formed at the primary level of education. Therefore, the impact of primary education on national development is significant and it is one of the main steps to ensure sustainable development. In view of this, new activities will be taken up for the development of this sector besides speeding up the ongoing activities for the development of primary education. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman rightly realised the importance of primary education and therefore nationalized 36,165 primary schools in the country in 1973 despite many challenges and shortcomings. In continuation of this effort, his daughter Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina nationalised 26,193 registered and community private primary schools in 2013 and included the jobs of 1,05,616 teachers in the public sector. Furthermore, 2,38,579 teachers have been recruited from 2009 to 2023 and 26,366 new posts of assistant teachers have been created to ensure the quality of education and to increase the teacher-student ratio. As a result, the number of teachers increased from 1 for every 52 students in 2006 to 1 for every 33 students in 2022. Also, primary school teachers are being trained in 5 core and 3 non-core subjects to improve their skills.. Additionally, subject-wise training has been provided to 5.37 lakh teachers in English and Mathematics and

other subjects. ICT labs with sophisticated technology have been set up in 67 PTIs for teachers' training purpose.

**Madam Speaker**

55. Alongside the recruitment of teachers, emphasis has been given on the development of infrastructure to ensure that students get a suitable learning environment. Since 2009, 1,28,820 classrooms, 65,083 wash blocks and 79,989 tubewells have been installed in government primary schools. At present, construction of 23,385 classrooms and 19,903 wash blocks and installation of 7,563 tube wells are underway. Since 2010, every year free textbooks are distributed to primary level students on 1<sup>st</sup> January through 'Book Festival' so that students can get their books at the very beginning of new year. Since 2017, textbooks and learning materials are also being distributed to 5 ethnic minority groups' children (pre-primary to class-3) in their own alphabet. In the academic year 2024, a total of 9,38,03,606 textbooks have been distributed to all students of pre-primary, primary level and ethnic minorities group.

56. With a view to preventing dropout at primary education level, stipend is being provided to 100% students through EFT. The ongoing school feeding program for more than 27 lakh students from 15,470 government primary schools in 104 upazilas of the country through the project titled 'School Feeding in Poverty-stricken Areas' has been completed recently. In continuation of this, a project has been taken up with the aim of starting 'School Feeding Program' in all primary schools from 150 upazilas of the country. The net enrolment rate in primary education has increased from 90.8 percent in 2009 to 97.56 percent in 2022 as a result of well-thought-out government policies. At the same time, the dropout rate in primary education was 45.1 percent in 2009, which declined to 13.95 percent in 2022.

57. Integrated education program has been launched to ensure education in mainstream government primary schools for all children of the society including children with special needs at primary level. Moreover, wheel chairs, crutches, hearing aids, etc. are being procured and distributed to children with special needs and funds are being allocated based on demand in each upazila for the purchase and distribution of such aids. Ramps are being constructed in primary schools to facilitate access to classrooms for children with special needs.

**Madam Speaker**

58. Children are the future leaders of this country. Our main goal is to build a smart Bangladesh and therefore steps must be taken from now on to establish this concept in the heart of every child. Taking this into consideration, steps have been taken to modernize the national primary education framework and its evaluation system. Besides, more emphasis is being given on technology-based teaching to familiarize children with the use of technology at the elementary stage of education. More than 1 lakh laptops, multimedia projectors, sound-systems with internet have been distributed and multimedia classrooms have been launched in government primary schools. Moreover, the program of setting up modern digital classroom and language lab in one school in each upazila has been taken. Steps will be taken to set up digital classrooms in 3 classrooms in 650 primary schools in disadvantaged areas of the country. Topics like information technology and coding have been included in the syllabus from 2022 onwards in primary class science textbooks with the aim of teaching programming knowledge to future generations so that they can adapt with the digital technologies to meet the challenges of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution.

59. Along with the formal education, the government has been conducting mass education programs and has already achieved

significant success. A 20,54,763 individuals have been provided with basic literacy through 35 thousand learning centres in 114 upazilas of 60 districts on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in FY2022-23. Apart from this, the program to bring back the dropout children to the mainstream by ensuring education through non-formal education system is underway and will continue in the future as well.

**Madam Speaker**

60. In the next FY2024-25, I am proposing an amount of Tk 38,819 crore for primary and mass education, which was Tk 34,722 crore in the current FY2023-24.

**Secondary and Higher Education**

**Madam Speaker**

61. Through the dedicated efforts of our government, significant successes have been achieved in the education sector. As a result, Bangladesh secured 129th position out of 192 countries in the Human Development Index, surpassing both India and Pakistan. The enrolment rate at the secondary level has improved to 71.82 percent. The government is undertaking various initiatives for the expansion of education, including the construction and development of educational institutions, financial assistance to students and teachers in the form of scholarships and stipends, and implementing various programs for the development of meritorious students. Supportive policies and conducive environment are being created for the expansion of education. With the aim of building a Smart Bangladesh, a science-based up to date and pragmatic new education curriculum has been introduced from the academic year of 2023. Besides, more than 160 universities are running

academic programmes in the country to develop the necessary human resources for building a Smart Bangladesh.

62. Construction of buildings in 1,533 colleges have been completed under the project titled ‘Development of Selected Non-Government Colleges along with ICT Facilities for Improvement of Qualities of Education’. Besides, development works including the construction of 208 buildings of 70 government colleges through the ‘Development of Post Graduate Government Colleges at the District Head Quarters for Improving Quality of Education’ project and the construction of academic buildings and hostels of 200 government colleges through the project titled ‘The Extension of Science Education Opportunities in Government Colleges’ are underway. Through the project titled ‘Transformation of Existing Non-Government Schools to Model Schools in Selected Upazilas’ establishment of computer labs and multimedia classrooms in 310 schools have been completed. From 2009 to 2023, construction of buildings has been completed in 13,705 educational institutions, and furniture has been supplied to 9,411 educational institutions.

63. Under teachers’ training program for the improvement of education 35,61,113 teachers have been trained in various subjects in the last one and a half decade. Notably, in the academic year 2022-23, training has been provided to 2,98,246 class teachers, 29,564 headmasters, and 597 education-related officials on the curriculum expansion topics of class six and seven under the Dissemination of New Curriculum Scheme. Training for teachers has already been completed for 1,517 district-level trainers and 16,050 upazila-level trainers for the expansion of eighth and ninth class curriculum in the academic year 2023-24. Besides, an ongoing program is providing subject-specific training to 3,67,604 class teachers across the country. To enhance students' interest in science education, science equipment has been

provided to 20,000 educational institutions, and educational materials have been supplied to 30,000 educational institutions. Nearly one lakh teachers and staffs have been provided with nutrition-related training to ensure students' physical health. Moreover, under the 'Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP)', a total of 10,447 teachers have been appointed at different points of time to teach subjects like Mathematics, English, and Science.

64. Considering the goals and objectives of Smart Bangladesh, a total of 33,285 multimedia classrooms and 11,307 computer labs have been established in selected educational institutions since 2009. Additionally, approximately 64,925 multimedia classrooms and 12,000 labs will be established. Training has been provided to nearly 5 lakh teachers at the secondary and higher secondary levels in ICT since 2009. A project is underway to establish 2,607 classrooms with multimedia facilities, 200 language cum ICT labs, and 1,000 science labs, and to supply ICT equipment in 200 government colleges across the country. Two projects titled "Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation" and "Improving Computer Software in Tertiary Education" have been recently approved at a total cost of Tk. 5,236 crore 37 lakh for the development of higher education in the country, which will play a significant role in improving inclusive and equitable higher education.

**Madam Speaker**

65. Through the Integrated Stipend Program under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust, a total of Tk. 5,800 crore was distributed from 2020-21 to December of 2022-23 fiscal years as stipends and tuition fees to 1,55,29,799 poor and meritorious students at the secondary and higher secondary levels. Besides, from the fiscal year 2012-13 to 2022-23, a total of Tk. 900 crore has been distributed as

stipends and tuition fees to 15,57,562 poor and meritorious students of graduation and equivalent levels. This stipend is playing a supportive role in increasing the enrolment rate in higher education. It is to be noted that approximately 60 percent of the students who are receiving stipends at the graduate level are female.

66. With the aim of implementing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-4, a temporary academy has been established under the project titled 'National Academy for Autism and Neuro-Developmental Disabilities (NAAND)' for students who are lagging behind in the society, especially those with autism and neuro-developmental disabilities, and at present counselling services are being provided to children and parents as an outdoor service at the academy.

**Madam Speaker**

67. In FY2024-25, I propose an amount of Tk 44,108 crore to the secondary and higher education sector, which was Tk 42,839 crore in FY2023-24.

**Technical and Madrasa Education**

**Madam Speaker**

68. The role of technical and vocational education in creating extensive employment opportunities is undeniable. Enrolment in vocational education has significantly increased over the past few years thanks to the dedicated efforts of our government. In 2010, the enrolment rate in vocational education was only 1%, which increased to 18.17% in 2022 and 28% of them are female. In 2010, the number of students enrolled in vocational education was 5,41,656, which increased to 15,81,485 in 2022. With a view to attracting more students to technical education the Government is providing assistance to poor

meritorious students, and distributing stipends and free textbooks regularly. Apart from this, one-time grants are being provided as assistance to poor and meritorious students and teachers.

69. There is an ongoing infrastructure development program for the qualitative improvement and institutional capacity building of vocational education. In each of the 100 upazilas, there is an ongoing program to establish a total of 100 technical schools and colleges, of which 91 newly constructed TTCs have started educational programs. The establishment of 4 women's polytechnic institutes is underway in Sylhet, Barishal, Rangpur, and Mymensingh divisions. The setting up of 4 engineering colleges in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna and Rangpur divisions is in progress. Moreover, acquisition of land is in progress for the establishment of technical schools and colleges in 329 upazilas.

70. For the purpose of ensuring uninterrupted education aimed at developing skilled manpower, a blended approach combining offline and online education is underway. Under the National Taskforce, a sub-committee for vocational education has been set up, and plans for vocational education have been formulated through coordination with relevant stakeholders. Considering the future opportunities of employment, revision of traditional curriculum has been initiated to include at least one vocational subject at all levels starting from class six, familiarizing the students with hands-on learning alongside their regular studies. 513 competency standards and 614 competency-based learning materials have been developed for 249 occupations.

**Madam Speaker**

71. The Government has undertaken extensive activities to develop and modernize madrasa education in addition to general education. In FY2023-24, 33 new madrasas have been enrolled in MPO and establishment of multimedia classrooms in 495 madrasas have been

completed. Under various development projects, out of 1800 madrasas, the construction work of 818 madrasas buildings has been completed and the construction work of 982 multi-storied buildings is in progress. Besides, to impart the benefits of technical education to the students of madrasas, vocational courses have been introduced in 548 madrasas. Sheikh Russell ICT Labs have been set up in 1,036 madrasas of the country. Under the Bangladesh Madrasa Teacher Training Institute, as many as 6,767 teachers have already been trained.

**Madam Speaker**

72. I am proposing an allocation of Tk. 11,783 crore in FY2024-25 for Technical and Madrasa Education Division, which was Tk. 10,602 crore in FY2023-24.

**(2) Health and Family Welfare**

**Madam Speaker**

73. For advancement of the medical sector, the Father of the Nation established the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) in 1972 and also specified its functions. Noteworthy functions include development and organization of scientific research in various disciplines of health sciences, development and streamlining of scientific research in various disciplines of health, reproductive health and nutrition to identify issues and problems related to medical and health care needs and to take measures aimed at proper application and utilization of medical research results. Following the principles of the Father of the Nation, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken and implemented extensive development programs in medical science research in the last 15 years.

74. Ensuring universal health and nutrition is one of the basic

principles of our government. We are working to implement this principle. Specially, we are working diligently to build a healthy, strong and lively population by providing affordable quality Health, Nutrition and Family Welfare (HNP) services to the public. We have already achieved commendable progress in the development of health, nutrition and family welfare sectors. Despite resource constraints, Bangladesh has demonstrated remarkable success in achieving health-related MDG targets. Inspired by this, we have been working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the goals of the Perspective Plan by 2041 and ensure smart health services.

75. Significant progress has been made in the health sector in the last one and a half decade. Maternal mortality rate was 351 per lakh in 2007, which has reduced to 136 at present. The under-five mortality rate was 60 per thousand in 2007, which has declined to 33 today. Neonatal mortality rate was 29 per thousand in 2007, which has decreased to 20 today. Life expectancy was 66.6 years in 2007, which has now increased to 72.3 years. The success of Bangladesh's immunization expansion program has been globally commended. The rate of full immunization of children under one year of age increased from 75 percent to 94 percent. Last year, 10,500 doctors, 15,000 nurses, 1,000 midwives, and 650 medical technologists were recruited to sustain and strengthen these achievements in the health sector. Another recruitment of 10,000 nurses is underway.

76. The government has continued the Expanded Immunization Programme (EPI) to protect the children and women from various deadly contagious diseases. Currently, immunization activities against 11 deadly contagious diseases are being carried out among the children, adolescent girls and women under the EPI programme. Since October 2023, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which prevents cervical cancer in women, has been included in this program. This

vaccine is being given in the form of a campaign to all adolescent girls aged 10-14 years and students of class 5-9 of educational institutions of the country. Already the first phase of the campaign has been successfully completed in Dhaka Division. In addition, it has been decided to add typhoid conjugate vaccine and Japanese encephalitis vaccine to the EPI program in 2025.

**Madam Speaker**

77. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has introduced community clinics to implement the initiative taken by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to reach the healthcare sector to the doorsteps of the rural people. Against the target of building 18,000 community clinics across the country, 14,311 community clinics have already been constructed. Health services are being ensured to the rural people from these community clinics and 27 types of medicines are being provided free of cost. Recently, the United Nations adopted the first resolution on the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's innovative Community Clinic model, which has been recognized by the world community as a role model titled 'Community Clinic: The Sheikh Hasina Initiative'. The United Nations has urged other member states of the United Nations to emulate this innovative idea of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

78. Significant progress has also been made in the digitalization of the health sector. Starting from the national-level health institutions and hospitals to community clinics and rural health workers have been provided with computers, laptops and tablets with internet connectivity. An electronic health database is being created by providing health cards with a uniform health ID to all citizens. Currently, shared health records have been introduced in 62 hospitals. Besides, the National e-Health Policy Strategy has been finalized. High quality telemedicine services

have been introduced in 96 hospitals, including 24 specialised hospitals, 15 district hospitals and 57 upazila hospitals. There is a health call centre (16263) named Health portal, through which people are getting services from the specialist doctor 24 hours by telephone at home. To address the health risks, the government has been consistently allocating special budgetary resources since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Building on this commitment, I propose a dedicated allocation of TK. 2000 crore this year.

79. Medicine being an essential part of health care, the pharmaceutical industry has been identified as a thrust sector. Thanks to the different initiatives coupled with the policy support, Bangladesh is now capable of producing world-class medicines. About 98 percent of the total demand of medicines in the country is being produced locally and after meeting the domestic demand, medicines are being exported to more than 150 countries of the world including Europe and America. From January to December 2023, the export of medicines worth Tk. 9,880 crore from Bangladesh to different countries has been approved.

**Madam Speaker**

80. Modern and quality health education is essential for improving the quality of health services. In this context, in line with the National Health Policy 2011, medical and nursing education and educational institutions are being upgraded and modernized. Steps have been taken to bring all medical postgraduate degrees under one platform, modernize examination system, and provide teachers' training etc. In the last 15 years, there has been a significant increase in both the number of medical institutes and available seats. In this connection, I would like to mention that there were only 59 medical colleges and universities in our country in 2008, which has now increased to 111. There were 13 dental colleges and units which has increased to 35. In 2008 the number of

government medical college seats were 2,310 which has now increased to 5,381. In 2008 the government dental college and unit seats stood at 135, which has now increased to 545. Apart from this, projects of establishing Chittagong Medical University, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Medical University, Rajshahi, Sylhet Medical University and Sheikh Hasina Medical University in Khulna have been approved. If all these projects are implemented, the health education will be expanded further.

81. For building Smart Bangladesh, student selection process for MBBS and BDS courses in private medical and dental colleges and admission process of foreign students has been automated. Training Management Information System (TMIS) - an online server-based software - has been introduced to conduct training activities digitally and integrate all information related to training. Allocations are being made to 'Integrated Health-Science Research and Development Fund' to create basic and applied research infrastructure in medicine, conduct research activities, increase the capacity of innovations in the health sector, etc. In the next budget, I propose to allocate TK. 100 crore for this purpose. Several initiatives have been taken in the health care sector to meet future demand. Special training materials are prepared with a view to creating specialized and skilled manpower (medical technician, experts) those who will be engaged for the management and operating of specialized technology/devices, operation and other useful activities. Apart from development of health education infrastructure emphasis has also been given on formulating modern health education. That's why 'Bangladesh Allied Health Education Board Act, 2023' and 'Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Act, 2023' have been framed.

82. It is important to train up sufficient quality nurses along with doctors for ensuring health care. For this purpose, in last few years, a total of 24 new nursing colleges have been established and another 10

new nursing colleges are in the process of establishment. To improve the quality of nursing education system, 4 year B.Sc. in Nursing course has been introduced in 13 Government Nursing Colleges and Post Basic B.Sc Nursing Course has been introduced in 04 Government Colleges. Another 16 nursing institutes have been upgraded to nursing colleges and steps have been taken to launch B.Sc in Nursing courses. Post Basic B.Sc in Midwifery course has been introduced in 04 colleges for higher education of midwives. Diploma in Midwifery courses have been introduced in 22 new nursing institutes. At present, the number of nursing educational institutions is 68 at the government level and 361 at the private level. Every year in these centrally controlled institutions 33,615 students are getting admission in diploma, B.Sc nursing and midwifery courses.

**Madam Speaker**

83. Safe delivery services through skilled midwives and midwives at union level are being provided to ensure maternal and child health services including facilitating family planning services. At the national level 03 service centres (MCHTI, Azimpur, MCHTI, Lalkuthi, Mirpur, Dhaka and MFSTC, Mohammadpur, Dhaka) and 71 mother and child welfare centres are providing emergency obstetric services including caesarean section. 423 Union Health and Family Welfare Centres have been constructed and 104 centres have been reconstructed. At the Union level, 159 Mother and Child Welfare Centres with 10 beds have been established and 1,590 posts have been created to provide services in these service centres. The existing mother and child welfare center in the district is being converted into a mother and child hospital. To bring down the adolescent birth rate to the desired level, services are being provided through adolescent-friendly corners established in various service centres under the National Adolescent Health Strategy for the period 2017-2030.

**Madam Speaker**

84. In FY2024-25, I propose an allocation of Tk 41,407 crore to maintain the progress of health services, health education and family welfare which was Tk. 38,051 crore in FY2023-24.

**(3) Employment and skill development**

**Madam Speaker**

85. One of the main commitments of the government articulated in the election manifesto of the 12th National Assembly titled “Smart Bangladesh: Visible Development, Increased Employment,” is to create huge employment opportunities. We believe productive employment is critical to ensuring the benefits of economic growth, poverty alleviation and equitable distribution of income. A wide-ranging activities are being implemented for this purpose. In addition, government is working to ensure the overall welfare of workers, social security provisions, improve the working environment by ensuring compliance with labour issues, ensure justice in the labour field through the labour court, and fix the minimum wage for workers including alleviation of the practice for child labour.

86. With the aim of ensuring labor welfare 32 labor welfare centres provided free health care services to 9 lakh 47 thousand 418 individuals, 5 lakh 35 thousand 133 individuals got family planning counseling and services and 16 lakh 55 thousand 767 people received entertainment services. 43 industrial sectors minimum wages have been fixed/refixed including re-fixation of minimum wage of ready-made garment industry from Tk 8,500 to Tk 12,500. In the last 10 years from Sramik Kalyan Foundation 23 thousand 387 workers have been provided financial assistance of Tk 11.12 crore and in the last 6 years 20 thousand workers

were provided Tk 196 crore from the central fund due to accidents and family reasons.

**Madam Speaker**

87. To create women-friendly workplaces and to safeguard the motherhood, as many as 6,430 day-care centres have been set up in various factories and institutions. To build a safe housing system for women workers near their workplaces, multi-storied hostels and labor welfare centres with a 5-bed hospital have been constructed at Narayanganj Port and Kalurghat in Chittagong to accommodate a total of 1,530 working women. Social security for unemployed and distressed workers is being seriously considered by government. As a part of this, “Policy for Implementation of Social Protection Program for Unemployed and Distressed Workers of Export-oriented Garments and Leather Products and Footwear Industry-2020” has been formulated. In the light of the policy, a total of TK. 9 crore 19 lakh 98 thousand incentives has been provided to 10 thousand 222 unemployed workers so far. The 'Employment Injury Insurance' scheme has been introduced on a pilot basis to protect against risk of injury at work.

**Eradication of child labor and decent work environment**

**Madam Speaker**

88. The Government is committed to eradicating child labour at the national and international level. To meet this commitment, the ‘National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010’ has been formulated. According to the ILO Convention, a total of 90 thousand children have already been rehabilitated from risky work to normal life through the ongoing project titled 'Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh'. The government has identified 43 sectors as hazardous work environments for children and has taken strict measures to eliminate child labor in

these sectors. Through the initiatives undertaken by the government, child labor has already been eradicated from the ready-made garment industry, shrimp industry, tanneries, glass, ceramics, ship recycling, export-oriented leather industries and footwear, and the silk industry.

89. With a view to ensuring a decent work environment, a target has been set to ensure compliance in 1550 factories in the ready-made garment sector during FY2024-25. To ensure overall welfare and improve workers' living standards, the process of creating a database by including information of 3 lakh workers in the first phase through a software named 'Labor Information Management System (LIMS) ' is underway. Together with this, a target has also been set to provide free primary healthcare services to 3.76 lakh workers and recreational services to 4.55 lakh workers. Apart from this, to protect the fundamental rights of workers, a target has been set to provide training to 49,500 workers.

## **Overseas Employment**

### **Madam Speaker**

90. Overseas employment is one of the main sectors of Bangladesh's economy. The remittance sent by expatriate workers is playing a significant role in increasing the foreign exchange reserves and making the country's economy self-reliant by reducing dependence on foreign aid. From 2009 to 2023, a total of 97 lakh 7 thousand 250 workers from Bangladesh, including 10 lakh 85 thousand 117 female workers, have been employed in 176 countries across the world. The increase in overseas employment has led to a significant rise in remittance inflow. In FY 2009-10, the amount of remittance was USD10.99 billion, which doubled to USD21.61 billion in FY2022-23. To maintain the remittance flow through overseas employment and to meet the demand of the

global labor market, emphasis has been laid on skill development through various technical trainings, alongside the importance of learning foreign languages. From 2009 to December 2023, a total of 13 lakh 70 thousand 70 individuals have been provided skill development training through various technical training centres. Additionally, training in different foreign languages including Japanese, English, Korean, and Chinese are being provided through 43 TTCs. Considering the importance of overseas employment in the economy of Bangladesh, steps have been taken to establish 50 more TTCs in addition to the existing 104 TTCs to ensure trade-based training in FY2024-25. Furthermore, the project titled 'To Provide Driving Training for Employment at Home and Abroad' has successfully provided driving training to a total of 1 lakh 2 thousand and 400 individuals in the past 5 years.

91. The government has allocated Tk.500 crore to the *Probashi Kallyan* Bank to provide loans to expatriate workers returning home on easy terms. From this fund, until March 2024, loans amounting to Tk.293.65 crore have been provided to 12,890 borrowers. Through the Wage Earners' Welfare Board, from 2010 to February 2024, a total of Tk. 19 crore 62 lakh and 40 thousand has been provided in financial assistance for the treatment of returning expatriate workers who are injured or ill. This assistance has been provided to 2,085 workers,. Besides, from 2009 to February 2024, an amount of Tk. 1436.76 crore as financial grants has been provided to the families of the deceased migrant workers who legally went abroad.

### **Skill Development**

#### **Madam Speaker**

92. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) has been

established to create skilled human resources and to bring about fundamental structural changes in the skills development ecosystem through planning and coordination based on the demands of the national and international labour markets. Since 2019, this institution has been responsible for the overall coordination of skill development in the country, including formulating policies and curriculum for skills development training for national skills enhancement. In addition, to transform the large population of the country into a productive labour force, Tk.550 crore has been allocated from the National Human Resource Development Fund (NHRDF), established in 2017, for the implementation of training programs from FY 2016-17 to FY2023-24. With the assistance of 25 public and private training institutions in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Mymensingh divisions, training grants have been provided from this fund in the current fiscal year for providing training to 6,240 trainees, including 1,872 female trainees, through 28 courses.

93. For the purpose of ensuring enhanced skills, the ‘Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)’ project under the Finance Division, in association with 13 industrial enterprises and four industry skills councils, non-government development organisations, commercial organisations, charitable organisations, textile and garment industries, and four Ministries/Divisions has imparted basic skill development training in textile and garment industry, leather and footwear industry, jute industry, information technology, light engineering, tourism and hospitality, export-oriented ship-building industry, women entrepreneurship development, nursing and caregiving and driving to approximately 6 lakh individuals over the past 9 years. Among the trained, employment has been secured for 5.34 lakh individuals. The ‘Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)’ is being implemented to facilitate the development of skills, research, and innovation capabilities of managers engaged in the

industrial sector, including the enhancement of higher-level technical skills. Moreover, it aims to promote green skills development to foster sustainable growth in the industrial sector. Through this project, by 2028, a minimum of 5 Industry-Academia linkages will be established for the higher-level technical skills program and at least 20 higher-level technical skills development courses will be implemented based on industry demand. Furthermore, a policy strategy will be adopted to promote research and innovation with the assistance of Bangladeshi scientists, researchers, or engineers working abroad, aiming at the development of the domestic industry.

#### **(4) Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Livestock**

##### **Agriculture sector**

##### **Madam Speaker**

94 The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said, "We cannot survive by depending on others for food. We must produce our own essential food by ourselves. We must ensure the livelihood of our farmers, increase production; otherwise, Bangladesh cannot survive". Embracing this philosophy of the Father of the Nation, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has brought about revolution in the country's agriculture sector.

95. Innovations and policy strategies supportive of agricultural production have played a vital role in bringing about agricultural revolution. A wide-ranging initiatives have been undertaken, including the development of improved and resilient crop varieties, innovative farming technologies, rapid dissemination of adapted varieties and technologies, supply of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and seeds at fair prices, expansion of irrigated areas, adoption of improved

agricultural practices, and mechanisation of agriculture. In tackling food crises, efforts have been made to increase crop production, leading to diversification of crops, production of more nutritious crops, and reduction of dependency on imports. Steps have been taken to promote market expansion initiatives, which have helped tackle food crises. As a result, despite climate change and global crises, the trend of the growth of agricultural production remains uninterrupted, which has ensured food security in the country and strengthened the economy.

96. We are providing subsidies to encourage agricultural production which will remain in place in the near future. In addition to providing subsidies for fertilizers, mechanization is being promoted to increase agricultural production. From 2010 to 2023, about 1.33 lakh agricultural machineries of various types have been supplied. Additionally, under the development assistance, the process of supplying 51.3 thousand agricultural machineries to haor and coastal areas is underway.

97. The Government is ensuring supply of required loans for agricultural production. In the FY2022-23, within the scope of the agriculture and rural development programmes, approximately 27 lakh small and marginal farmers were provided loans from various banks which amounted to Tk. 22,402 crore. Besides, in FY2023-24, a target of Tk. 35 thousand crore has been set for the distribution of agricultural and rural loans. To keep the farmers' production costs at the minimum, support for fertilizers, electricity used in irrigation, and development assistance (subsidy) for sugarcane cultivation have been consistently provided. From 2009 to 2023, approximately an amount of Tk. 1.29 lakh crore has been allocated as development assistance. Furthermore, since the FY 2009-10, our government has been implementing the 'Agricultural Loan for Marginalised Farmers' scheme through Bangladesh Bank to provide timely, collateral-free, low-interest agricultural loans to the disadvantaged farming community.

98. Production of crops including rice, maize, potatoes, vegetables and fruits is on the increase as a result of the agri-oriented policies of the government. In FY 2008-09, the total production of food grains was 328.96 lakh metric tons. By FY2022-23, this increased by approximately 42 percent to 467.03 lakh metric tons. During this period, maize production rose by 780 percent, potato production by 98 percent, and vegetable production by 675 percent. As a result of the revolution in agricultural production, despite being the most densely populated country in the world, Bangladesh ranks 3rd globally in the production of rice, vegetables, and onions, 2nd in jute production, 4th in tea production, and 7th in the production of potatoes and mangoes.

**Madam Speaker**

99. The Government has formulated 'Integrated Action Plan for Agricultural Sector Development' under which various adversities-tolerant including the salinity-tolerant rice are being cultivated. Considering the topographical diversity in various regions of the country, efforts are being made to enhance crop diversity. Vertical farming is being adopted to increase crop productivity. This trend promotes various forms of innovative agriculture such as floating farming, rooftop farming, hydroponics, aeroponics, and precision farming. As a result of these advancements in agricultural techniques, the country's agricultural sector is gradually transforming from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

100. We have already started implementing the 'Smart Farming Card and Digital Agriculture (Pilot) Project (2022-26)' and the 'Climate-Smart Agriculture and Water Management' Project (2022-25). Additionally, we are providing agricultural information services to the farmers through various mobile and web applications, including agricultural community radio, *Krishok Bandhu* Phone, online fertilizer

recommendations, e-irrigation services, rice knowledge bank, agricultural technology hub, e-Pesticide Prescriptions, *Krishoker Janala*, *Krishoker Digital Thikana* and community rural radios. Online agricultural marketing platforms 'Hortex Bazaar' and 'Food for Nation' have been launched to facilitate the marketing of farmers' produce.

## **Food Security**

### **Madam Speaker**

101. Ensuring food security for all is one of the foremost pledges of our government. To meet this pledge, we will continue to pursue sustainable development strategies based on the outline provided in the Perspective Plan for the advancement of agriculture and rural economy. In the 8th Five-Year Plan, a target has been set to increase the government's food grain storage capacity to 37 lakh metric tons by 2025. To address the ongoing global economic crisis, the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority is primarily focusing on ensuring food security through intensive monitoring of the food supply chain, quality control of food, and promoting good nutrition practices.

102. For the purpose of alleviating poverty and protect low-income people from the pressure of inflation, food-friendly programmes are providing 50 lakh low-income families with 30 kg of rice per month during the 5 months of the off-season each year. Additionally, to stabilize the market prices of essential goods, nearly 1 crore low-income families across Bangladesh are being supplied with 2 liters of soybean oil, 2 kg of lentils, 1 kg of sugar (subject to availability), and 5 kg of rice at 30 takas per kg through TCB's family card. To efficiently protect low-income people, smart family cards are being distributed in place of TCB's family cards. This will enable verification of beneficiaries' information through the integration of their NID and mobile numbers.

As of March 2024, over 30 lakh smart family cards have been distributed.

103. With a view to preventing food wastage and ensuring food security, the storage capacity of food godowns has been increased to 21.86 lakh metric tons, with plans to further increase it to 29 lakh metric tons in the next fiscal year. Additionally, TCB is maintaining emergency reserves of essential goods. In this context, we are continuing our efforts to increase the reserves in TCB's own warehouses. The storage capacity of TCB's own warehouses was 9,570 metric tons in FY 2008-09, which has now increased to approximately 27,000 metric tons. The project titled 'Construction of Godowns for Chattogram, Sylhet, and Rangpur Regional Offices to Increase TCB's Buffer Stock Capacity' has been implemented. Through this project, the quality of perishable essential commodities will be maintained, ensuring the accumulation of emergency stocks, and thereby enhancing TCB's capacity to regulate the market.

## **Fisheries and Livestock**

### **Madam Speaker**

104. Our government is relentlessly striving to meet the hundred percent demand for animal protein. Following the successful implementation of effective plans and development projects in the fisheries sector, fish production reached 49.15 lakh metric tons in the FY2022-23. According to the report titled 'The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022' by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Bangladesh ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in inland fish production and 5<sup>th</sup> in cultured fish production in confined water bodies globally. Additionally, Bangladesh is positioned as the top producer of Hilsa among all countries. Among the countries producing Hilsa fish,

Bangladesh holds the top position. Research is being conducted to protect the indigenous fish species. Technologies for breeding and farming of 40 species of indigenous fish have already been developed. Improved varieties of fish breeds have been developed through genetic research. Plans have been taken up to double production through the development of livestock and poultry breeds, balanced food management, and disease control to meet the increasing demand for animal protein in the country.

105. To ensure sustainable management of fisheries and promote blue economy in Bangladesh, several laws called the 'Marine Fisheries Act 2020', 'Marine Fisheries Harvesting Policy 2022', and 'Marine Fisheries Rules 2023' have been enacted. To effectively manage harvesting marine fisheries, the Department of Fisheries has implemented the Monitoring, Control, Surveillance (MCS) system through the 'Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries' project, and a 'Joint Monitoring Center' has been established in Chattogram. These interventions will make the fishing in the deep sea more efficient. Construction of 5 marine fisheries surveillance check posts and integration of 6 patrol vessels and high-speed boats are underway for marine fisheries management and development. The National Plan of Action is being implemented to prevent illegal and unregulated fishing.

**Madam Speaker**

106. The Fisheries research and survey vessel named "R V MEEN SANDHANI" has conducted 44 survey cruises in the Bay of Bengal so far. Data collected through these surveys have been preserved for biological analysis. Marine Spatial Planning is being formulated for the sustainable use and management of marine fisheries resources which will be a milestone for the marine sector. To ensure the co-management of marine fisheries resources, there are ongoing activities to establish

450 fishing villages to improve the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen.

107. There is a target against Sustainable Development Goal 14.5.1 that 10 percent of the total marine area has to be declared as protected areas. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has already declared a 698 sq. km. marine reserve area in the deep sea and a 3,188 sq. km. adjacent to Nijhum Dwip as marine protected areas. A management plan has been formulated for the Nijhum Dwip Marine Protected Area. Moreover, a pilot project for the fishing of tuna and other fishes in the deep sea is being implemented, under which two marine vessels have been purchased. This will open up a new dimension to the blue economy. Side by side, this will play a significant role in ensuring the food security. As a result of these activities, marine fish production increased by 24.35 percent, from 5.46 lakh metric tons in FY 2010-11 to 6.79 lakh metric tons in FY2022-23.

**Madam Speaker**

108. Alongside up-scaling the efficiency, the government is taking various measures to ensure the welfare of fishermen. During the periods of their unemployment, the government provides food assistance to fishermen. To ensure proper breeding and conservation of fish in Bangladesh's marine economic zone, all types of fishing are prohibited from May 20 to July 23 each year (a total of 65 days). In 2023, during the period of ban a total of 26,083.42 metric tons of rice as VGF were distributed at the rate of 40 kg per month to 2,99,135 fishing families in 68 upazilas across 14 districts. This programme will continue in the next fiscal year as well.

109. In addition to fisheries, there are programmes to create a smart livestock sector through sustainable breed development and disease control of cattle and poultry. Thanks to the earnest efforts of the

government, Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in fulfilling the minimum animal protein requirements as determined by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. To protect animal health, the government has increased the production and administration of vaccines. Under the policy 'Sheikh Hasina's gift, a veterinarian within reach' mobile veterinary clinics have been established in 360 upazilas to bring veterinary services to farmers' doorsteps. Additionally, activities such as breed improvement and vaccination for livestock are being carried out to meet the daily per capita protein requirements.

**Madam Speaker**

110. Alongside the agriculture sector, I propose an allocation of Tk. 38,259 crore for the fisheries and livestock sector to ensure food security in FY2024-25. In the FY2023-24, the allocation for this sector was Tk. 35,880 crore.

**(5) Local Government and Rural Development**

**Local Government**

**Madam Speaker**

111. "Sheikh Hasina's main policy is the development of villages and cities."- with this vision, our government is building, renovating, and preserving necessary infrastructure as part of economic development and creation of civic amenities in both rural and urban areas. Across the country, including the capital and major cities, we are implementing multifaceted programmes to ensure essential services to the citizens. These programmes include the construction of roads, bridges, and culverts, ensuring supply of safe drinking water, resolving urban waterlogging, achieving 100 percent sanitation, ensuring the

conservation and use of surface water instead of groundwater sources, and waste management.

112. In the past 15 years, a total of 78,215 kilometers of paved rural roads have been constructed, 1,25,973 kilometers of paved rural roads have been maintained, 445,807 meters of new bridges have been built, 1,767 Union Parishad complex buildings have been constructed, and 418 Upazila Parishad complex buildings have been constructed/expanded to expand the infrastructural facilities and civic amenities across the country. Additionally, 2,919 growth centres and markets have been developed, and 1,516 cyclone shelters have been constructed/reconstructed. In the urban sector, 11,522 kilometers of roads/sidewalks, 4,715 kilometers of drains, and 18,010 meters of bridges/culverts have been constructed. Furthermore, 50 bus/truck terminals and 57 community centres have been built.

113. Our government has brought about unprecedented changes in water supply and sanitation systems to improve the quality of life for the public. Through various development projects, a total of 11,24,800 safe water sources have been established in rural areas, along with 1,484 production tube wells, 159 water treatment plants, 17,779 kilometers of pipeline installation/replacement, 1,063 kilometers of drains, 69 elevated water reservoirs and ponds have been excavated/re-excavated. In the small-scale water resource sector, 1,921 kilometers of embankments have been constructed/reconstructed, 1,934 water resource infrastructures/regulators have been built, 7,405 kilometers of canals have been re-excavated, and 32 rubber dams have been constructed. These efforts have moderated waterlogging, improved water conservation, and increased irrigation facilities over 5,34,174 hectares of land.

114. Dhaka WASA has achieved the capacity to supply around 275 crore liters per day against the daily demand of 265 crore liters of the Dhaka city dwellers. Revenue bill issuance has been made fully automated. Additionally, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi WASAs are also supplying safe drinking water to the urban residents. Establishing a reliable water supply network for Dhaka residents and to enhance the quality and capacity of Dhaka WASA's services, a project called the "Dhaka Water Supply Network Improvement Project" is being implemented at a cost of Tk. 3,980 crore. This project aims to provide safe drinking water to all urban residents, including low-income groups and slum dwellers, and to minimize the amount of Non-Revenue Water (NRW).

115. To ensure water quality, smart technology application and digital data storage management are being implemented and a software has been developed to manage online all activities concerning various water sources in the municipalities. Additionally, Dhaka WASA is moving towards a smart water supply management system by establishing District Metered Areas (DMA) for water supply. Dhaka WASA's deep tube well pumps, motors, chlorination systems, generators, and other equipment are being operated and controlled through the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Currently, around 30 percent of Bangladesh's total population resides in urban areas (city corporations and municipalities). To build a modern urban system, five new city corporations have been established in the past 15 years. Besides, the areas under certain city corporations have been expanded. Short and long-term programmes are continuously being undertaken and implemented to develop road infrastructure, provide safe water supply, improve drainage systems, and ensure modern sanitation and primary waste management in urban areas. Notably, the services provided by city corporations and municipalities are being brought under automation.

116. To mitigate waterlogging, the task of managing 26 canals in Dhaka city has been transferred from Dhaka WASA to the two city corporations. Necessary steps, including the removal of illegal structures, have been taken to maintain the natural flow of the canals for proper management. As a result, despite heavy rainfall last year, there was no waterlogging in Dhaka city. Our initiatives for canal reclamation, renovation, and creating an aesthetic environment will continue. Together with activities like these, control of dengue, mosquito eradication, cleanliness drives, conducting mobile courts, and public awareness programmes are being carried out across the country, including the Dhaka metropolis.

117. To close the gap between the amenities in rural and urban areas and ensure equal opportunities for all citizens, various programmes, including the 'My Village, My Town', are being implemented. To increase the productivity, facilities like microcredit, training, and technology transfer are being provided to various segments of people in rural areas, including the poor and destitute women, which are making the marginalized communities economically self-reliant and empowered. Besides, special emphasis is given on constructing climate-resilient infrastructure to tackle climatic impacts. To enhance the capacity of the local government institutions in addressing the risks and impacts of climate change, the government has undertaken a project called "Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC)". This has earned the recognition as a model project for combating the effects of climate change and has received an international award at this year's World Climate Conference (CoP28).

118. In the medium-term action plan (from FY2024-25 to 2026-27), the following targets have been set for the rural sector: constructing 16,160 kilometers of new roads, building 69,000 meters of bridges/culverts, maintaining 27,100 kilometers of paved roads and

13,000 meters of bridges/culverts, developing 415 growth centres/markets, constructing and expanding 184 Upazila complex buildings, and constructing 160 cyclone shelters, and many other development works. Additionally, for the urban areas, the plan includes construction of 497 kilometers of roads and sidewalks and 282 kilometers of drains. To manage waste efficiently in 12 city corporations and 329 municipalities across the country, steps have been taken to adopt modern waste management technologies used in developed countries. These technologies aim to produce electricity, fuel, and organic fertilizer by incinerating waste in an environment-friendly manner.

## **Rural Development**

### **Madam Speaker**

119. With a view to boosting rural economic activities, the government has been conducting micro-credit and income generation programmes and employment and skill development trainings. As a result, the rural economy is growing and poverty is reducing. For the purpose of creating employment for the disadvantaged rural women and to strengthen their socio-economic development and empowerment, a project called "Improving the Quality of Life of Disadvantaged Women through Rearing of Superior Breeds of Cows" has been implemented in 50 upazilas of 25 poverty-stricken districts. Under this project, 10,000 beneficiary women of 100 cooperative societies have been given revolving credit of Tk. 122 crore and 20 lakh. With the aim of creating profitable self-employment for rural women and unemployed youth, increasing milk production and expanding cow breed development activities, revolving loans of Tk. 78.30 crore have been distributed to 21 thousand 360 beneficiaries under 3 projects from July 2011 up until now. Revolving loans of Tk. 11.6 million have been distributed to

13,000 beneficiaries with a view to improving the living standards of the backward sections of the society, especially the minority ethnic groups, through cooperatives. A pilot project titled "Establishment of Bangabandhu Model Village in the Light of Bangabandhu's People-oriented Cooperative Thought" is under implementation in 10 upazilas of 9 districts. Under the project, 11,640 members of cooperative societies have been trained in 10 villages and revolving loans of Tk 14,16,50,000 have been distributed among 2,161 beneficiaries.

120. Under the project called 'Expansion of Cooperative Activities in Jessore and Meherpur Districts with the aim of Creating Rural Employment through Milk and Meat Production', profitable and productive employment for 4,200 energetic, active women and unemployed youth has been created. In addition, steps have been taken to increase annual production of 22 lakh liters of milk and 1.80 lakh kg meat. Moreover, a project titled 'Extension of Activities of Dairy Cooperatives' is being implemented in 50 milk deficit upazilas of 37 districts of 8 divisions of the country at a cost of Tk 156.90 crore. With a view to ensuring women empowerment, steps have been taken to implement a project called 'Capacity Building of Women Co-operative Members and Entrepreneurship Development through Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mahila Samabay Samity' covering 14,200 women beneficiaries.

**Madam Speaker**

121. In the next FY2024-25, I propose to allocate Tk 46,552 crore for the local government and rural development sector. In the FY2023-24, the allocation for this sector was Tk 48,137 crore.

## **(6) Power and Energy**

### **Power**

#### **Madam Speaker**

122. One of the main inputs of production is electricity. Our government is attaching highest importance and top priority to the development of power sector and is implementing various projects to improve the generation, transmission and distribution systems. Already, in fulfilment of its pledge, the government has brought 100 percent of the population under the electricity coverage and plans have been taken to increase the power generation capacity to 40,000 MW by 2030 and 60,000 MW by 2041. There are plans to increase the power transmission lines to 24 thousand circuit kilometers by modernizing the grid. Besides, the government has formulated Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) as part of the integrated master plan for the power and energy sector.

123. In 2009, the power generation capacity was only 4,942 MW, which has now increased to 30,277 MW (including the captive and renewable energy). Currently, 27 power plants with a capacity of 9,144 MW are under construction. Per capita power generation increased from 220 KWh to 602 KWh. Following the construction of 7,246 circuit-km of transmission lines in the last 15 years, the total number of transmission lines has increased to 15,246 circuit-km. The total length of distribution lines stands at 6.43 lakh km. Electricity distribution system loss has been decreased from 14.33 percent in 2009 to 7.65 percent in 2023.

124. As part of the long-term master plan for power generation, a plan has been adopted to import about 9,000 MW of electricity from neighbouring countries by 2041 under regional and sub-regional

cooperation programmes and a target of 40 percent of the total power generation from renewable energy has been set. 1,160 MW of electricity through grid interconnection and 1,600 MW from coal-based power plants are being supplied from India to the national grid of Bangladesh. Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant construction project at Ishwardi in Pabna is under implementation. After its implementation, a total of 2,400 MW of electricity in two units will be connected to the national grid, which will accelerate economic development of the country. Considering the importance of renewable energy in building a developed, prosperous, smart and sustainable Bangladesh by 2041, I am proposing a special allocation of Tk 100 crore to encourage its development and use.

125. Besides, electricity generation and transmission, smart pre-paid/smart meter installation programme has been taken up to increase transparency and accountability in this sector. Around 63 lakh pre-paid/smart meters have been installed so far. Bill payment, grievance redressal and new connection processes have been brought under automation to improve the quality of customer service. In building a Smart Bangladesh by 2041, emphasis has been laid on smart power generation, transmission and distribution system, including the introduction of a smart grid system.

## **Energy and Mineral Resources**

### **Madam Speaker**

126. Our government is working relentlessly to ensure safe and adequate energy supply in the country. In January 2009, our gas production was 1,744 million cubic feet per day, which has now increased to about 2,100 million cubic feet. Besides, about 1,000-1,050 million cubic feet of imported LNG is being added to the national grid daily. About 14 million tons of coal has been extracted from

Barapukuria coal mine till January 2024. The extracted coal is being used in Bara Pukuria Thermal Power Plant to generate electricity. Natural gas accounts for 54 to 59 percent of the country's total commercial fuel. Currently, the number of discovered gas fields is 29, of which 20 are in production. BAPEX plans to drill and workover 48 wells under Petrobangla between January 2023 and December 2025 to explore and extract oil/gas in onshore areas to meet the increasing gas demand of the country. It is to be noted that since February 2014, a total of 49 wells (12 exploration, 06 development and 31 workover wells) have been completed by BAPEX.

127. Without impairing the interests of Bangladesh and making the existing 'Offshore Model- PSC 2019' more attractive in the light of production-sharing agreements of various neighbouring countries Bangladesh Offshore Model Production Sharing Contract (PSC)- 2023 has been formulated. Under this contract, 'Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round-2024' has been started to recruit international companies for oil and gas exploration and extraction in 09 blocks of shallow sea and 15 blocks of deep sea. It is expected that PSCs for deep and shallow seas will be signed by December this year. Besides, the Blue Economy Cell is working under the Energy and Mineral Resources Division to coordinate the activities of the relevant Ministries/Departments concerned with the blue economy for optimal utilization of marine minerals and other resources. Considering the importance of extracting marine resources and its fair use, I am proposing to allocate Tk. 100 crore for research and development activities in this sector.

128. Imported LNG is being supplied to the national grid from 2 floating LNG terminals (FSRU) installed in the deep sea at Moheshkhali area of Cox's Bazar, each terminal having regas power of 500 MCF per

day. Besides, another floating LNG terminal with a daily supply capacity of 600 million cubic feet of LNG is being set up in Moheshkhali area. Moreover, contract signing is underway to supply 500 million cubic feet of LNG per day to the Payra port area. Setting up a land-based LNG terminal with a capacity of 1,000 million cubic feet per day is also underway at Matarbari in Cox's Bazar.

129. To strengthen the energy security of the country, activities have been undertaken to increase the storage capacity of fuel oil to 60 days instead of 45 days. In FY 2008-09, the storage capacity of fuel oil in the country was 8.94 lakh metric tons. In FY2022-23 it increased to about 14 lakh. To increase the refining capacity of Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) from 15 lakh metric tons to 45 lakh metric tons to meet the fuel oil demand of the country ERL Unit-II project has been taken up.

130. The government has undertaken a number of activities to modernize the energy distribution system. A total of 5 lakh 33 thousand and 23 pre-paid meter has been installed of which Titas Gas Distribution Company Limited installed 4 lakh 16 thousand 18 in Dhaka metropolitan area, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited 67 thousand 5 in Chittagong area and Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Limited 50 thousand in Sylhet area. Concurrently, industrial level customers are being brought under the purview of Electronic Volume Corrector (EVC) meters.

**Madam Speaker**

131. Considering the importance of power and energy sector, I propose an allocation of Tk 30,317 crore in FY2024-25, the allocation for this sector was Tk 34,819 crore in FY2023-24.

## **(7) Development of Communication Infrastructure**

### **Roads and Bridges**

#### **Madam Speaker**

132. The government is continuously working to develop a modern and sustainable highway network by adopting an integrated action plan in line with the vision of making Bangladesh a developed nation as articulated in the Perspective Plan-2041. At the same time, planning and implementation of modernization of motor vehicle management including the introduction of high-speed public transport system (MRT and BRT) to reduce traffic congestion in Dhaka metropolis is underway. As part of building the communication network, 1,439 bridges were constructed/reconstructed on different highways. As a result, a well-developed highway infrastructure spanning 22,476 km across the country today ensures smooth and uninterrupted transportation of goods and passengers. 851.62 km of National Highways have been upgraded to 4-lane and above under various completed and ongoing projects. Besides, there are plans to construct 12 expressways and 10 more elevated expressways by 2041. Recently, Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated a total of 100 bridges in 25 districts of 07 divisions across the country, with a total length of 5,494 meters. Besides, 100 highways have been developed in 50 districts of 08 divisions.

133. A strong network consisting of 6 Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) or Metrorail is being built under Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) to reduce traffic congestion and improve the environment in Dhaka city and adjacent areas. Already MRT Line-6 has been launched up to Motijheel, which has been hugely appreciated by men and women alike as a fast, pollution-free, time-saving, state-of-the-art urban transport. The rest of MRT Line-6 will be completed by June 2025.

Besides, the construction work of MRT Line-1 and MRT Line-5: Northern Route is progressing rapidly as per the target.

134. Following the connectivity of the south-western region with other regions of the country, especially the north-central region through the Padma Bridge, an extensive level of activities has been created in the southern region. Besides, the 3.32 km long Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel built under the Karnaphuli River in Chattogram City was opened for traffic on 29 October 2023. It is the first under-river tunnel in South Asia. Construction of 46.73 km long elevated expressway (19.73 km long main elevated expressway and 27 km long ramp) under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali on Dhaka-Chattogram highway is underway to decongest Dhaka City. Meanwhile, the section starting from Kawla on the south of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Hatir Jheel has been opened for traffic.

135. Construction of 20 km Bus Rapid Transit or BRT lane from Gazipur to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is progressing rapidly. Already, 4.5 kilometers from Uttara BNS Center to Tongi Cherag Ali Market towards Dhaka and two lanes towards Mymensingh have been opened for traffic. Besides, the construction of the 24 km long Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Savar EPZ via Ashulia is progressing rapidly. Work on the Dhaka-Joydebpur-Devgram-Bhulta-Madanpur access-controlled highway is progressing rapidly under the PPP arrangement. A 39.23 km long Dhaka East-West Elevated Expressway is planned to be constructed from Baliapur on the Dhaka-Aricha highway via Nimtoli-Keraniganj-Fatullah-Bandar to Langalbanda on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

**Madam        Speaker**

**Railway Development**

136. We are working to develop the railway sector as a cost-effective and safe means of transportation of passengers and goods. In the last fifteen years, 947.99 km of new railway lines were constructed in the country, 340 km of meter-gauge railway lines were converted into dual-gauge, 1,391 km of railway lines were rehabilitated/reconstructed, 148 new station buildings were constructed, 238 station buildings were rehabilitated/reconstructed, construction of 1,062 new railway bridges, rehabilitation/reconstruction of 794 railway bridges, improvement of signalling system at 137 stations and 144 new trains including Chilahati Express have been launched. Besides, steps have been taken to implement several projects following the Bangladesh Railway Master Plan, Eighth Five Year and 2nd Perspective Plan, Sustainable Development Goals and Election Manifesto of 2024.

137. A newly constructed 64.75 km broad-gauge railway line has been inaugurated after completion of construction work from Khulna to Mongla Seaport. It will establish the connection of Mongla Seaport with the rail link of Padma Bridge under the existing Bangladesh railway network and will help establish communication with the South-Western region and increase the import-export activities of Mongla Seaport. Besides, construction of a 72 km dual line will be completed from Akhaura to Laksam section. Meanwhile, with the new rail link from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar, the section is likely to serve as a major part of the Trans-Asian Railway and sub-regional corridor. It is to be noted that in the next fiscal year, new 20 meter-gauge diesel electro locomotives as well as 150 meter-gauge passenger carriages will be added and 100 rehabilitated MG passenger carriages will be added to the rail transport. It is expected that this will enhance passenger service quality, freight capacity, operational efficiency and revenue of railways.

## **Maritime Transport**

### **Madam Speaker**

138. With the aim of making the waterways of riverine Bangladesh safe, passenger-friendly, modern and up-to-date and for the purpose of consolidating effective internal and international shipping system, various activities are being implemented including the modernization of seaports, preservation of waterways, installation of navigational equipment, procurement of rescue vessels. About 95 percent of the country's total import and export is done through Chittagong Port and Mongla Port. As a result of timely measures taken by the government, the volume of ship arrivals and cargo handling at the ports has been on the increase since the FY 2009-10. At the same time, the infrastructure development work of the ports is also progressing.

### **Madam Speaker**

139. Over the past fifteen years, the water boundary of Chittagong Port has been expanded sevenfold and brought under the digital tidal network. To enhance the capacity of the port, 5.80 lakh square meters of yards have been constructed in the last decade, raising its container capacity to 55 thousand TEUs. Vessel Traffic Management and Information System (VTMIS) has been introduced along with modernization of cargo handling operations of Mongla port. The country's third seaport has also begun limited operations at Payra. Currently, the port can accommodate ships with capacities of 40-50 thousand metric tons and drafts of 10.5 meters. Meanwhile, the implementation of Matarbari Deep Sea Port Development Project is progressing rapidly.

**Madam Speaker**

140. In the last fifteen years, twenty-six river ports have been declared in inland waterways to reduce the pressure on roads and railways and ensure safe, smooth transportation of passengers and goods by sea. To address the needs of people living in riverine areas, 187 new pontoons have been installed, and after repairing medium and large docking pontoons, a total of 472 pontoons of various sizes have been set up at launch ghats and river ports. This has significantly improved the safety and made the passenger and goods movement easier. Besides, 20 km walkways with green patches, boundary pillars and 2 eco-parks have been constructed within the radius of around 220 km along the banks of 110 km circular waterways around Dhaka. Currently, another 52 km of reclaimed land along the circular waterway is under development for walkway construction.

**Civil Aviation**

**Madam Speaker**

141. Over the past fifteen years, with the substantial growth of our economy both passenger and cargo air transport with the rest of the world has increased manifold. In tandem, domestic air travel has also increased with the change in travel options by our citizens. In response, we have taken up several projects to modernize air transport and related services to meet global standards. To improve the safety of aircraft take-off and landing, the runways and taxiways of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Cox's Bazar Airport and Osmani International Airport have been revamped and expanded. On October 7, 2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the 3rd Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, marking a significant milestone in the nation's aviation sector. The project to enhance the runway and taxiway

capacity at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport is 90 percent complete. Additionally, 79.95 percent of the runway extension project towards the sea at Cox's Bazar Airport has been completed, to upgrade it to an international airport. Security systems at all international airports have also been upgraded.

**Madam Speaker**

142. Considering the importance of the country's trade and commerce and supply system, I propose an allocation of Tk 80,498 crore for FY2024-25. The allocation was Tk. 85,191 crore in FY2023-24.

**(8) Social security and poverty alleviation**

**Madam Speaker**

143. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman following the Article 15(d) of the 1972 Constitution that guaranteed the right of the vulnerable people of the society to receive government assistance embedded the social security in the responsibility of the state. Substantial progress is being observed in poverty alleviation, employment and other sectors as a result of multi-pronged poverty alleviation interventions. The most notable example is that the poverty rate has declined from 31.5 percent in 2010 to 18.7 percent in 2022, and extreme poverty has fallen from 17.6 percent to 5.6 percent during the same period. This achievement is attributed to supportive policies and strategies of inclusive growth, and extensive social security programs. With a view to ensuring further enhancement to the effectiveness of these programs and expediting poverty reduction, our government has developed the National Social Security Strategy.

**Madam Speaker**

**Smart Social Security**

144. The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Government to Person (G2P) system for electronic payment of allowances to beneficiaries within the social safety net on January 14, 2021. Now allowances are being distributed to a total of 1,15,31,567 beneficiaries through the G2P system. Additionally, a nationwide survey to identify individuals with disabilities has been completed, leading to the creation of the Disability Information Management System software, which contains data of approximately 33.34 lakh identified disabled persons. A database server has been set up in Bangladesh Computer Council to store data in this software. Out of 115 social safety net programmes, 34 are cash-based, and 19 of these programs are currently disbursing funds directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts or mobile banking accounts via the G2P system. At present, more than 93 percent of the cash-based social safety net programmes benefits are being paid through the G-2-P system. The remaining cash-based programs will also be brought under this system in the next fiscal year.

**Madam Speaker**

145. The Ministry of Social Welfare provides capitation grants to orphans and underprivileged children in private orphanages as part of the social safety net. Recently, a software has been developed as a part of piloting program to provide capitation grant using the Smart System (G2I) to private orphanages. For this purpose, piloting program has already been completed in 04 districts of Dhaka division (Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi and Gazipur). In the next FY2024-25, the piloting program will be expanded to all 64 districts. By the FY2025-26, capitation grants will be distributed directly via Electronic Funds

Transfer (EFT) using the Smart System (G2I) to the private orphanages and institutions across the country.

### **Disability Protection Program**

#### **Madam Speaker**

146. We are committed to protect the interests and rights of persons with disabilities. In the next financial year, the number of disability allowance recipients will be increased from the current 29 lakh to 32 lakh 34 thousand. Besides, the stipend for students with disabilities will be raised from Tk. 950 to Tk. 1050 at the higher secondary level. On October 23, 2023, the National Parliament passed the National Disabled Development Foundation Act 2023. A state-of-the-art 15-storey National Disabled Complex has been constructed in Sector 14, Mirpur, Dhaka, through the National Disabled Development Foundation. Furthermore, the Bengali Sign Language Day was officially celebrated at the foundation's campus on February 7, 2024.

147. A total of 103 disabled service and aid centres are being operated across 64 districts and 39 upazilas for providing therapeutic services to the country's disabled population. These centres offer free services and aid. As of January 2024, they have distributed 75,000 devices for assistance—such as artificial limbs, wheelchairs, bicycles, crutches, standing frames, walking frames, white canes, elbow crutches, and sewing machines for income generation—at no cost to the disabled individuals. From the FY 2003-04 to 2022-23, around Tk. 16 crore in the form of grants and loans have been distributed from the welfare fund of the foundation to private organizations supporting disabled persons, benefiting approximately 1 lakh 30 thousand individuals.

### **Mother and Child Support Programme**

148. An MIS-based Mother and Child Support Programme has been launched under the National Social Security Strategy, replacing the Rural Maternity Allowance and the Urban Working Lactating Mother Support Fund Programme. Under this programme, the beneficiaries received Tk. 800 per month for up to 36 months. To facilitate and ensure access to support nationwide, an online application process has been introduced. Additionally, it has been decided to expand the program, through which the number of beneficiaries will increase from 15 lakh 4 thousand 800 to 16 lakh 55 thousand 280 in the next fiscal year.

149. The protection and rehabilitation of underprivileged and endangered children are being facilitated through Sheikh Russel Child Training and Rehabilitation Centres nationwide. Currently, underprivileged and endangered children are being reunited with their families or close relatives, or rehabilitated in other institutions, through the Sheikh Russell Child Training and Rehabilitation Centres located in Gazipur, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Barisal, Sylhet, Faridpur, Kushtia, Barguna, Cox's Bazar, Jamalpur, and Shibganj in the Chapainawabganj district. At present, 1088 boys and 1216 girls are staying in these centres.

### **Protection of elderly, widows and abandoned women**

150. As life expectancy of the population rises, the government is paying special attention to the well-being of the elderly population. In FY2023-24, an allocation of Tk. 4,260 crore was made to provide monthly allowance of Tk. 600 to 58.01 lakh senior citizens. In the upcoming fiscal year, the number of beneficiaries will increase to 60.01 lakh and an allowance of Tk. 4,351 crore will be made in the budget. Moreover, a decision has been made to increase the number of widows and abandoned women receiving allowances from 25 lakh 75 thousand

to 27 lakh 75 thousand and allowance of Tk. 1,844 crore will be allocated in the budget.

### **Protection of *Vede*, Hijra and Backward Communities**

151. The government is committed to safeguarding socially marginalized groups, including the Vede and Hijra communities. Currently, allowances are being provided to 6880 individuals from the Hijra community to raise their living standards. There is a plan to widen the coverage of this support to a total of 12629 people in the next fiscal year. Besides this, we will continue to provide allowances for the *Vede* community. In the upcoming fiscal year, a total of 9832 individuals from other socially backward groups will be brought under the coverage of allowances. Education stipends programme for all marginalized communities, including Hijra and *Vede*, will continue to extend educational opportunities to them.

### **Preservation of the memory of the liberation war and socio-economic development of the finest sons of the nation**

152. The government is relentlessly working to preserve the history, heritage, and memory of the great liberation war and to ensure the welfare of the heroic freedom fighters. Following the directives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the monthly honorarium for all categories of freedom fighters has been increased to a minimum of Tk. 20,000 considering the socio-economic status of the freedom fighters. Furthermore, the honorarium for the martyrs, freedom fighters holding a title of honour, and war-wounded freedom fighters is now directly deposited into their bank accounts through the Government-to-Person (G2P) system. We are providing grants for freedom fighters' honorarium, including festival allowances, Bengali New Year allowances, and Great Victory Day allowances for the freedom fighters

who are alive. There are also provisions for medical care and burial expenses after the death of the freedom fighters. With the objective of giving self-employment opportunities for the heroic freedom fighters and their children, the Bangladesh Rural Development Board continues to provide microcredit facilities. Moreover, the programme for issuance of smart cards and digital certificates to ensure the identity of these heroic freedom fighters who are included in the integrated list of the freedom fighters is underway. Additionally, under the 'Housing Construction Project for the Insolvent Freedom Fighters' project, 30 thousand 'Bir Nibas' are being constructed at a cost of Tk 6097 crore, with the aim of providing free housing to the finest sons of the nation. In the meanwhile, 11057 Bir Nibas constructions have been completed and the construction of another 10889 is in progress.

**Madam Speaker**

153. I am proposing an allocation of Tk. 1,36,026 crore in the next FY2024-25 for social safety net program which was Tk. 1,26,272 crore in FY2023-24.

**(9) Industries, Commerce and Tourism**

**Industrialization**

**Madam Speaker**

154. Under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister, significant progress has been made in the country's industrial sector. The private sector is the main driving force of the industrialization of the country. To bring dynamism in this sector, we are working with the aim of improving production technology and product quality, innovating new products, increasing international cooperation and achieving excellence in technology and providing necessary support to private

sector industrial enterprises. At the same time, we are providing necessary guidelines and carrying out relevant activities to diversify exports by diversifying industrial products to build a sustainable economy. The contribution of the industrial sector to GDP was 24.3 percent in FY 2007-2008, which increased to 37.65 percent in FY2022-23. In line with the Eighth Five Year Plan, the government is focusing on industrial expansion to increase the contribution of industry to GDP to 41.86 percent.

155. With an aim to reduce dependency on urea importation, commercial production of urea fertilizer has commenced under the auspices of the “Shahjalal Fertilizer Project” in Fenchuganj, Sylhet costing Tk. 4,985 crore. Besides, environment-friendly, energy-efficient and modern technology-based Ghorashal-Palash Urea Fertilizer Factory with the production capacity of 9 lakh 24 thousand metric tons has been launched. A project is being undertaken to construct 13 buffer warehouses at a cost of Tk 545 crore 33 lakh in the 1st phase and 34 buffer warehouses at a cost of Tk 1,983 crore 4 lakh in the 2nd phase. 54 godowns have been constructed under the project titled “Godown Construction for Temporary Facilitating Chemicals Storage”. With the help of the BSCIC, a total of 82 industrial cities have been set up in different regions of the country in environment-friendly locations.

156. Considering the big demand of the market for Halal products worldwide, BSTI has become a member of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), an international standard setting organization and has already issued 84 Halal certificates. As a result, foreign exchange is being earned through the export of halal products worth about Tk 900 crore annually. To increase the export of halal products to the growing global market, we have formulated the Halal Certification Policy-2023 and in light of that, we are taking effective initiatives to increase the export by issuing certificates.

157. The government mainly provide loans on easy terms, refinancing facilities for infrastructure development and free training to support the development of cottage industries, micro, small and medium enterprises. We are implementing a number of activities to support the creation of small and cottage industry entrepreneurs, promotion of products produced by entrepreneurs, expansion, marketing of sales products. Under the sub-contracting support program of BSCIC, 785 large industries have been linked with the small and cottage industries from FY 2009-10 to 2023-24. We have taken the initiatives to enact sub-contracting legislation to increase the linkage of large-scale industries with small and medium scale industries. Besides, steps have been taken to create opportunities for small entrepreneurs to showcase and market their products through the BSCIC Online Market.

158. We have made it compulsory the construction of Industrial Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs and ETPs) to meet the challenges of climate change and to protect environment. We have already constructed CETP centrally in Savar Tannery Industrial City and taken measures to keep its four modules running 24 hours a day. There is an ongoing process for liquid waste treatment. To facilitate local and foreign investment, we have taken measures such as the registration of new industries, renewal of registration of expired industries, cancellation of registration, establishment of sub-contracting connections, application for training and providing e-certificates after training, contractor registration etc. through one-stop service.

159. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) Industrial Park has been set up on 200 acres of land in Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj district with the aim of producing raw materials for pharmaceutical industries, which is one of the most promising export-oriented industries in the country. In addition to the BSCIC Leather Industrial City at Savar, we are planning to set up three more leather industrial cities in Rajshahi,

Chattogram and Dhaka to earn foreign exchange by strengthening the leather sector. Besides, 50 acres of land has been initially demarcated at Ramnagar Bhatpara Mauza of the Sadar Upazila for setting up a new leather industrial city at Rajarhat in Jessore district.

**Madam Speaker**

160. I am proposing a budget allocation of Tk. 2,510 crore in the budget for FY2024-25 for the Ministry of Industries. The allocation for this Ministry was Tk. 3,024 crore in FY2023-24.

**Commerce**

**Madam Speaker**

161. The government is working to increase the country's export earnings through trade expansion. In the first fiscal year after independence, Bangladesh exported 25 products to 68 countries and earned only US\$ 348 million. In contrast, in FY2022-23, Bangladesh exported 806 products to 210 countries and regions. The export earnings of Bangladesh have been remarkable over the past 10 years. To take forward the country's development, we have taken up various initiatives to enhance the diversity and excellence of Bangladeshi products to be marketed in domestic and international markets. We are actively taking and implementing different measures, including signing Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) with various promising countries and regional trade/economic alliances.

162. We are working to improve the trade relations with various countries and regional organizations to solve the issue of reduced duty-free access to developed and developing countries following the graduation from the status of a least developed country to a developing country. As part of this initiative, so far, we have concluded trade

agreements with a total of 44 countries. We have also taken steps to establish Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) or Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with different countries and regional organizations commercially important for Bangladesh. In 2020, a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed with Bhutan, and significant progress has been made towards signing PTAs with Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Indonesia. A decision has been made to start negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India, for which exchange of information are currently underway. In October 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with China with a view to concluding an FTA. Besides, we have formed a Core Working Group to work towards concluding an FTA/Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan, one of Bangladesh's key development partners. Alongside these bilateral trade agreements with various countries, we are also working to expand exports through regional trade agreements. Currently, Bangladesh enjoys GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) benefits in 27 countries of the European Union for everything but arms (EBA). Furthermore, GSP benefits will continue in Canada and the United Kingdom until 2029 and duty-free benefits in Australia until 2032.

163. For the diversification of export products and markets, balanced development of local industries, encouragement of investment, and enhancement of product competitiveness are essential. Keeping this objective in mind, we have formulated the National Tariff Policy 2023. To address the ongoing recession in the global economy and trade, as well as the challenges of transitioning from a least developed country, we have decided to update the existing Export Policy 2021-24 and finalized the draft of the Export Policy 2024-27.

164. To expand the foreign markets for the country's garment industry and other exportable products, we are laying increased emphasis on

processed foods, leather goods, light engineering products, and pharmaceuticals alongside ready-made garments. Under the product development and diversification program, several items have been identified as potential products, including ships, furniture, rubber, pharmaceuticals, electronics and home appliances, paper, printed materials and packaging, ICT, ceramics, agro-processed food, leather, and diversified jute products. To develop these products, existing problems and opportunities have been identified and necessary actions have been taken accordingly.

165. As a crucial component of building a Smart Bangladesh, we have undertaken timely initiatives to expand e-commerce/digital commerce. To establish transparency and accountability in the operations of digital commerce entities, the Digital Business Identity (DBID) platform has been officially launched. So far, 1,085 digital commerce enterprises have been granted DBID. Moreover, to facilitate the integrated online resolution of complaints in digital commerce, we have initiated the piloting of the Central Complain Management System (CCMS).

### **Madam Speaker**

#### **Tourism**

166. We are implementing a 25-year Tourism Master Plan to contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh through tourism. The master plan will serve as a comprehensive roadmap to revitalize Bangladesh's tourism sector. If implemented, the contribution of the tourism sector to the national economy will be USD 4.77 billion by 2041. Thanks to the socio-economic progress of the country, there is a growing domestic demand for tourism apart from the interest of foreign tourists. Therefore, special emphasis has been given on the development

of eco-tourism, heritage tourism and business tourism in the country. For development of all these tourisms, we have adopted plans to construct tourist facilities at Tangua Howar, Nijhum Island, Sharankhola in the Sundarbans, Sompur Mahavihar in Paharpur and tourism complex at Mawa-end of the Padma Bridge. Meanwhile, Destination Management Organizations (DMO) have been set up in all these areas to attract tourists. Moreover, with the aim of developing a sustainable tourism industry, we have taken initiatives to provide advanced training along with registration of all tour operators and tour guides involved in the industry. In addition, to enrich the tourism sector, tourist centres are being constructed at Parki in Chittagong, Hatia and Nijhum islands in Noakhali and Mahananda in Chapainawabganj district. We have also plans to develop international standard tourism facilities in Rangpur, Chandpur and Cox's Bazar.

## **(10) Women Empowerment and Children Welfare**

### **Women Empowerment**

#### **Madam Speaker**

167. Soon after the independence, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took various steps to establish the rights of women who are deprived of equal rights in the family, society as well as political and economic fronts. Following the footsteps of the Father of the Nation, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has also adopted various plans and policies to empower and ensure equal rights for women. Following the successful implementation of these plans and policies, there has been significant progress in terms of women's political and social empowerment, gender equality in primary and secondary education, reduction in infant and maternal mortality, reduction in under-five mortality rate, increase in vaccination coverage,

reduction in poverty including prevention of infectious diseases, etc. The steps taken by the government to prevent discrimination against women and to establish their dignity have been acclaimed at the national and international levels. According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2023, Bangladesh has achieved the honor of being the champion in South Asia by ranking the 59th position among 146 nations in the World Gender Inequality Index.

168. With the aim of building a Digital Bangladesh, access to the use of information and communication technology for the underprivileged rural women has been facilitated to solve daily problems including education, health, agriculture, business, gender and legal support. Steps have been taken to render assistance in education and training to create awareness among them under the empowerment project through information and communication technology. An e-commerce marketplace “laalsobuj.com” has been developed with the aim of empowering marginalized women entrepreneurs through the ‘তথ্য আপা’ (Tottho Apa)’ project. Women are now becoming financially independent by selling their goods on this platform. Already 14,500 business owners are trading their goods by registering in this platform. Furthermore, “Her Power” project is being implemented to create self-employment by enhancing ICT based skill and to ensure sustainable empowerment of women as entrepreneurs. Moreover, the programs of creating women entrepreneurs and developing their skills through various trainings conducted by Joyeeta Foundation and National Women's Organization are continuing.

169. Microcredit funding programmes are going on to improve the socio-economic status of poor and destitute rural women with a view to alleviating poverty and creating opportunities for self-employment. Loans ranging from Tk. 5 thousand to Tk. 15 thousand per person are being distributed through 488 upazilas of 64 districts by rotation from

the allocated fund. Various programs are being undertaken for self-employment of unemployed and enterprising women from the special fund of Hon'ble Prime Minister. Loan disbursement programs and training in income-generating and productive activities will be continued in the future to generate resources through economic empowerment and creating opportunities for women by ensuring their participation in the country's economic development.

### **Protection of Women and Children**

#### **Madam Speaker**

170. Under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, a total of 1.22 crore women have received 'Pushti Chaal' and training through the VGD program. Micro-credit has been disbursed to 1 lakh 61 thousand and 978 distressed and helpless rural women. Through 125 daycare centres, 9,030 working mothers have been served. 28825 sewing machines have been distributed among poor women. Grants amounting to Tk. 147 crore 85 lakh 28 thousand have been disbursed to a total of 99,368 associations.

171. Women and children, who are abused, are receiving various assistance from District Headquarter Hospitals and 14 One Stop Crisis Cells. Psychosocial counseling has been provided to 29,696 women and children from the National Trauma Counseling Centre and Regional Trauma Counseling Centres. A total of 65 lakh 41 thousand and 153 women and children have been served through national helpline 109 as of December 2023.

172. Currently, violence against women and other crimes are increasing under the influence of various means of social media. With a

view to protecting women from all these persecutions, steps have been taken to make them aware through courtyard meetings together with informing them about cyber security. To protect the underprivileged teenagers from various untoward incidents such as child marriage, eve-teasing, dowry, sexual abuse, drug addiction, etc., 7,033 clubs are in operation under various projects. All these clubs are conducting awareness campaigns to stop child abuse, particularly the discrimination and torture against girl children. To prevent child marriage, girls attending schools are given bicycles so that they can continue their education uninterrupted. This will facilitate their commuting and give them a sense of empowerment.

173. To continue with the process of developing women in the future, the programmes for providing opportunities for women's education, healthcare, access to the labour market, social protection, and prevention of violence, etc. will be strengthened. To this end, several programs including providing income and employment opportunities to the underprivileged women in haor areas, providing higher training on the production of diversified jute products, establishing daycare centres in 64 districts for children of working mothers, constructing hostels for working women in 64 districts, establishing child development centers for 4-year-old children, collecting and displaying creative works of rural children, implementing 'Safe Internet-Safe Children' programs etc. have been undertaken.

**Madam Speaker**

174. In the budget for FY2024-25, I propose to allocate Tk. 5,222 crore for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, which was Tk. 4,755 crore in FY2023-24.

## **(11) Climate Change, Disaster and Water Resources Management**

### **Climate change and environmental Protection**

#### **Madam Speaker**

175. We are always striving to build a livable planet for the future generations and ensure sustainable development. In 2011, considering the importance of biodiversity conservation, Article- 18A has been inserted in the Constitution of Bangladesh. To give effect to the provision of this article, various laws are being enacted and regulatory and fiscal policies are being adopted and implemented. In 2019, we adopted a motion called Planetary Emergency in the National Parliament. In recognition of these efforts, in December 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations-supported Global Centre for Climate Mobility conferred the "Climate Mobility Champion Leader Award" on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

176. To address the impact of climate change, we formulated the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) in 2009, which is currently being updated. To implement the programs mentioned in the BCCSAP, Tk 3969 crore have been allocated from FY 2009-10 to FY2023-24 for the management of the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) formed by the government's self-financing, under which a total of 969 projects (including 908 public and 61 private projects) have been undertaken so far. Of these, 721 projects have been successfully completed. In addition, the Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework was formulated in 2014 which has been updated in 2020. Adaptation and mitigation activities to face climate change risks are being given importance in all development plans of the government.

Moreover, climate change implications are being taken into consideration while evaluating all government project proposals. Currently, we are assessing the amount of climate-related allocation and actual expenditure in the budgets of 25 climate-related ministries/divisions. In addition, Bangladesh Climate and Development Platform (BCDP) has recently been set up for proper coordination of the projects undertaken to combat the impact of climate change. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change. Considering the depth and extent of these impacts, we are taking all the necessary steps to increase the capacity of adaptation to climate change and reduce the impact. To speed up activities in this regard, I am proposing a special allocation of Tk. 100 crore in this year's budget.

177. The Air Pollution (Control) Rules, 2022 has been formulated for controlling and reducing air pollution. To monitor air pollution, Air Quality Monitoring Stations and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Stations have been set up in the divisional towns and the industry-intensive locations. The air quality data received through these stations are analysed and processed online. Based on the analyses, AQI is calculated which is published regularly on real time basis since November 2023. Pollution control measures have been strengthened in all industries of the country to control water pollution. Out of 2,907 industrial establishments across the country, ETPs have been installed in 2,474 liquid waste discharging industries till September 2023 and a Zero Discharge Plan is being implemented in 656 industries discharging liquid waste. Besides, water quality is being monitored regularly at 99 places of 27 rivers and emphasis is being laid on creating environmental awareness among the people along with enforcement of laws to control noise pollution.

178. As a result of the implementation of the nationwide afforestation programmes and tree plantation including social forestry, the total

forest-covered areas in the country has increased to 22.37 percent of the total area of the country. A total of 37 protected areas, including 8 National Parks, 20 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 4 eco-parks, 1 Botanical Garden, 2 Marine Protected Areas (Swatch of No-Ground and St. Martin's) and 2 Special Biodiversity Conservation Areas have been declared for the protection of biodiversity. At present, there are 53 such protected areas in the country.

### **Water Resources Management**

#### **Madam Speaker**

179. Proper and well-thought-out management of water resources is of immense importance for the development of agriculture in this riverine country as well as for the protection of the environment. To ensure efficient and sustainable management of water resources, 92 projects have been implemented in the last three years out of 182 development projects undertaken with the aim of controlling floods, preventing river erosion, dredging of rivers, improving irrigation management, eliminating waterlogging and land restoration. Through the implemented projects, 247 km river bank has been protected, 210 km dam has been constructed, 2,369 km embankments have been reshaped, 263 and 233 hydrological structures have been constructed and restructured respectively, 265 km irrigation canals and 1,019 km drainage canals have been re-excavated, and 1,148 km river dredging and re-excavation work have been completed.

180. Under the ongoing projects in the current fiscal year, activities are underway to complete river bank protection, dam construction, irrigation canal excavation and re-excavation, river dredging and re-excavation, construction/reconstruction of irrigation structures, construction/reconstruction of flood control and drainage structure,

construction and repair of embankments in haor areas. Automation of water control infrastructures by applying state-of-the-art technology is underway and plans are underway to bring AI based monitoring systems to polders in coastal areas. Moreover, steps are being taken to improve the system of collecting and analysing rainfall and transnational water flow data through the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning, internet of things and big data.

181. The 'Buriganga River Restoration' project has been implemented to continue the flow of clean water in the rivers flowing around Dhaka city. Following the implementation of the project, the water flow of Buriganga, Turag, Balu, Pungli and Dhaleshwari rivers has increased. Besides, with the aim of solving waterlogging problems in the northern part of Dhaka city, two pump stations were constructed. This has made it possible to remove waterlogging in Uttara, Mirpur, Pallabi and Cantonment areas. The project titled 'Re-excavation of Shuvadya Canal in Keraniganj Upazila of Dhaka District and Development and Protection of both banks of the canal' has been approved. A total of 154 projects worth Tk 28,043 crore have been identified for implementation of the Haor Master Plan adopted for the development of haor areas and 40 agencies of different ministries/divisions are already implementing 110 projects. A survey project has been undertaken to update the Haor Master Plan.

182. Under the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, 68 development projects have been undertaken in the water resources development sector at a cost of about Tk 52,850 crore, of which 12 projects have already been completed and the implementation of 56 projects are underway. Besides, under this plan, about 5,262 km of rivers, canals and water bodies are being re-excavated in 64 districts of the country. As a result, 109 small rivers, 533 canals and 26 water bodies will be revived and inter-linkage among the water bodies, canals and rivers will be

established. As a result of the development of water drainage system, it will be possible to keep an area of approximately 520 thousand hectares safe from waterlogging, floods and climate change related risks. Providing irrigation facilities to about 1 lakh 30 thousand hectares of land will increase the crop production by about 3 lakh 50 thousand metric tons annually.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Madam Speaker**

183. By dealing with natural calamities like floods, cyclones etc. almost every year, our people have acquired an innate capability to adapt with them and keep the wheel of development running. The government is formulating necessary policies and taking up programmes to reduce the disaster risk and further increase their disaster response capacity. Bangladesh is now recognized in the world as a role model for disaster management as it has been able to significantly reduce the loss of life and damage of property and assets in disasters. More recently, we have been able to deal efficiently with the cyclone 'Remal'.

184. In the light of Disaster Management Act, 2012 National Voluntary Service Policy-2023 has been formulated. So far, 77,200 Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers have been provided with training and rescue equipment and their database has been created. The National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC) has been set up at the grassroots level to provide early warning and disaster related information to all in an effective and speedy manner. Arrangements have been made to provide updated disaster forecast and weather message by dialing toll-free 1090 number on mobile phones using IVR technology. Actions have been taken to establish a National Disaster Coordination Centre for overall coordination in the event of major disasters.

185. In FY2022-23, 6.5 km bridges/culverts have been constructed in 492 upazilas of the country. There is a target to construct 4 km bridges/culverts in the current FY2023-24. Under the project titled "Herring Bone Bond (HBB) for Sustainability of Rural Dirt Roads (1st Phase)", 861.40 km of road has been constructed across the country in FY2022-23. There is a plan to construct 1086.35 km of roads in the current FY2023-24. A total of 450 Mujib Killas are being constructed including renovation and development of existing 172 Mujib Killas and construction of new 278 Mujib Killas in 85 upazilas of 23 districts prone to flooding and river erosion. A total of 455 flood shelters have been constructed in the flood-prone and river erosion areas. Besides, 223 flood shelters are under construction. A total of 320 multipurpose cyclone shelters have been constructed in the coastal areas of the country.

186. Local action plans and practical guides on disaster risk assessment and risk reduction have been formulated. An earthquake risk map has already been published and ward-level contingency plans have been prepared for Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet City Corporation areas to reduce possible earthquake losses. Joint projects have been implemented with 16 departments and directorates of 12 ministries with the aim of integrating risk reduction into the mainstream of development. Assistance has been provided to these 12 ministries to incorporate disaster risk reduction policies into their planning and budgeting processes. The government is working to formulate a disaster risk financing strategy to ensure proper financing in the event of natural disasters.

## **(12) Science, Research, Telecommunication and Information Technology**

### **Science and Research**

#### **Madam Speaker**

187. One of the top priorities of our government is to build a nation that is science-focused and equipped with modern information technology. In alignment with the Government's Election Manifesto-2024, the Eighth Five-Year Plan, the Second Perspective Plan, and the Sustainable Development Goals-2030, we are conducting research-oriented activities in science and technology, as well as formulating and implementing related policies and laws. To establish a knowledge-based society and create a modern and smart Bangladesh by 2041, the Science and Technology Programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology has provided special research grants amounting to 221 crore 66 lakh taka for 6,398 projects from the FY 2009-10 to 2023-24. Under the Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship Trust, 760 individuals have been awarded fellowships for study and research both in-country and overseas. Of them, 515 have completed their studies and the remaining 245 are pursuing their researches.

188. The scope of providing modern nuclear medical services at low cost has been expanded, enabling the general public to access advanced nuclear medical treatments. With the infrastructural development of the National Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences and the procurement of necessary medical equipment, the quality of nuclear medical services has improved, allowing a greater number of patients to receive these services.

### **Telecommunication and Internet**

189. Following the achievement of the goals of Digital Bangladesh, 20 lakh young men and women have found employment in the information technology sector over the past 15 years. The cost of the internet has been significantly reduced, and the opportunities for web-based employment and business have been expanded. In 2008, minimum cost of 1 Mbps fixed internet bandwidth was Tk 27000, whereas it is now only Tk 60. To extend these benefits to rural areas, high-speed internet has been expanded to union levels at low costs. The number of mobile financial wallet users has surpassed 12 crore. With over 9,000 digital centres across the country and approximately 8,500 post e-centres and more than 16,000 entrepreneurs, including 5,344 women, citizens can access to necessary services. Additionally, to allow citizens to access services conveniently, over 2,400 services have been digitized. The easy availability of the internet has increased its user base from 40 lakh in 2008 to nearly 12.92 crore by the end of January 2024. During this period, internet density in Bangladesh has risen to 75.12 percent from just 2.7 percent in 2008.

### **Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution**

190. To address the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, our goal is to create at least 10 lakh smart jobs in the information technology sector and attract foreign investment of US\$ 1 billion over the next five years. With this aim, steps will be taken to enhance capabilities in frontier technologies across all sectors of the economy by 2031. This includes establishing research centres focused on frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, semiconductors, electric vehicles, space, and geospatial technologies. As a result of achieving the goals of Digital Bangladesh, 20 lakh young men and women have found employment in the information technology

sector over the past 15 years. The ICT sector's export volume is expected to increase to US\$ 5 billion in the next five years and to US\$ 50 billion by 2041. Special initiatives will be undertaken to encourage innovation and research across the country, including at the grassroots level, by enhancing the capabilities of stakeholders in the ICT sector and setting benchmarks for becoming smart in every sector.

191. Efforts are underway to ensure uninterrupted high-speed internet and transmission networks nationwide. To support the implementation of '5G', the optical fiber network of BTCL is being upgraded and expanded through the Optical Fiber Network Development Project. With a view to fulfilling the growing demand for bandwidth in the country, projects for installing the fourth submarine cable by 2028 and the fifth submarine cable by 2033 are being undertaken. The expansion of the underground optical fiber cable network, which serves as the backbone for the country's telecommunication and information technology services, has reached 39,200 kilometers and continues to grow. Besides, 8,500 rural post offices have been transformed into digital postal centres. To create smart post offices, modern facilities have been established at 14 locations, and 14 mail processing centres have been established. These centres will play a crucial role in expanding e-commerce in rural areas.

### **(13) Housing and Urbanisation**

#### **Madam Speaker**

192. Considering planned urbanization as essential for improving citizens' quality of life, increasing productivity, and ensuring easy access to essential services, a range of initiatives are being taken up. The Detailed Area Plan (DAP) with the tenure from 2022-2035 is being implemented to enhance the infrastructural standards of the capital city,

Dhaka. Besides, formulation of the Chittagong Metropolitan Master Plan (2020-2041) for Chittagong Metropolitan City, Structure Plan, Master Plan and Detailed Area Plan of 269.92 square kilometers outside the existing DAP area for Khulna City, and Detailed Area Plan (DAP) and Master Plan of Cox's Bazar is in progress. The formulation of development plan of 27 upazilas of 14 districts of the country is going on.

193. Steps have been taken to assess the earthquake risk of private buildings in Dhaka and to prepare a risk sensitivity database for the Rangpur and Sylhet City Corporation areas. Plans have been formulated to develop Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake and establish an eco-park in Sector 12 of Purbachal in Dhaka. To promote sustainable infrastructure, steps are being taken to develop alternative bricks to replace burnt bricks, conserve agricultural land, and produce environment-friendly construction materials. In Chattogram, to address sudden flooding and waterlogging, re-excavating, expanding, and developing of 36 canals connected with the Karnaphuli River are underway. Moreover, construction of embankments and roads from Kalurghat Bridge to Chaktai Canal along the banks of the Karnaphuli River is in progress.

194. During the current FY2023-24, construction work of 4,856 residential flats for government officials and employees is underway. Furthermore, over the past 15 years, 7,500 residential flats have been constructed for government officials and employees. Steps have been taken to construct integrated office buildings in all districts to ensure proper land utilization. Integrated office building construction projects have already been completed in Madaripur and Manikganj districts, while construction work is ongoing in Gopalganj. In order to provide housing facilities for low-income individuals and residents, plans have been made to construct 4,032 rental-based residential flats in Tongi, Gazipur, and in the Shyampur-Kadamtoli area of Dhaka, Chanpara area of Narayanganj, and Haringhata area of Khulna.

### **Ashrayan: Housing for the Landless and Homeless**

195. To fulfil the Hon'ble Prime Minister's pledge- 'Not a single person of the country will remain homeless in the Mujib Year,' we are putting in our best efforts. Since 1997, a total of 5,78,312 landless and homeless families have been rehabilitated under the Ashrayan and Guchchhogram projects and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. Of these, 1,59,848 families have been housed in barracks, 1,53,853 families by constructing houses on their own land, 640 families by constructing multi-storied buildings in the Khurushkul Shelter Project, and 600 ethnic-minority-families have been housed in specially designed houses. Besides these, 1,000 families affected by cyclone Amphan and 100 families affected by river erosion have also been provided with houses. This initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to alleviate the poverty of the landless, homeless, uprooted and helpless people by ensuring housing facilities has come to be known as the 'Sheikh Hasina Model of Inclusive Development'.

## **(14) Youth, Sports, Religion, Culture**

### **Power of Youth- Prosperity of Bangladesh**

#### **Madam Speaker**

196. The government is working hard to develop skilled manpower by using the immense potential of the youth. To achieve higher growth, it is important to transform the youth into skilled workforce through proper education and training. We are developing training curricula consistent with the demand from home and abroad. A total of 37.46 lakh youth was provided skill development training from FY 2008-09 to FY2023-24 (up to February). In the same tenure a total of Tk. 1437.68

crore of was distributed as loan to the youth. Thanks to this initiative, the skilled youth became self-reliant through self-employment.

### **Sports Development**

197. The government is providing sports material and financial assistance to different sports club along with developing of stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pools and other related infrastructures to improve the quality of sports and related facilities. A total of 13 projects for construction and development of sports facilities are being implemented in FY2023-24. One of the notable projects is 'Construction of Upazila Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium'. I am proposing 20 projects in the upcoming budget for the development of youth and sports. In addition, a talent hunt scheme is continuing under the supervision of experienced trainers in every division for developing the skill of sportspersons. To this end, a long-term training is being provided to those talented sportspersons. The government is also providing sports gear and financial assistance regularly to sports federations, associations and agencies for arranging domestic and international sports events.

### **Development of Culture**

#### **Madam Speaker**

198. Our government is working relentlessly to uphold the tradition of non-communal democratic cultural identity along with the creative development and expansion of language, literature, art, music, drama etc. To continue such efforts, we are providing funds for the development of indigenous culture and cultural heritage; research and publication on the spirit of liberation war and contemporary art and literature; identification, excavation, restoration, preservation and

display of archaeological artefacts, and protection of copyright, etc. We are also providing regular funds for celebrating national days with due solemnity. We are organizing Book Fairs as a part of the publicity, promotion and preservation of our culture and to expand it to the international arena. Side by side, we are also signing cultural treaties with different countries of the world. We are preserving the history, traditions and culture of the ethnic minority groups and nurturing them through ethnic cultural institutions. The National Library Policy, 2023 has been adopted which will play a leading role in developing knowledge based enlightened society. To encourage the general public to read regularly, the infrastructural facilities of the public libraries across the country have been put in place. Side by side, other supports like automatic binding, electronic education system for the researchers and students are continuing. Moreover, government is continuing its financial support to private libraries, insolvent cultural workers, cultural institutes and secondary educational institutes.

## **Religion**

### **Madam Speaker**

199. The Government is working to establish a liberal society which will be tolerant and ready to establish a society of communal harmony irrespective of religion through the development of religious values and ethical standards. E-Hajj system has been introduced so that the Hajj pilgrims can complete all relevant formalities properly. An agreement has been signed between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia as ‘Makkah Road Service’ to carry out pre-arrival immigration of Hajj pilgrims in Bangladesh. We have a vision to setting up smart Hajj Management System in 2041 through e-Hajj. In order to impart Islamic knowledge

and culture we are constructing 564 model mosques and Islamic cultural centres in all districts and upazilas. A total of 300 such model mosques have already been inaugurated for performing religious rites and another 100 mosques will be inaugurated in the current fiscal year. Our government is planning to make imams, sebayets and priests self-reliant by providing interest-free loan. We will continue providing financial assistance for infrastructural development of mosques, madrasas, Eidgahs, cemeteries, temples, cremation grounds, pagodas, churches and other places of worship.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Good Governance and Reforms**

#### **Madam Speaker**

200. It is one of the election pledges of present government to ensure good practice of transparency, good governance and democracy in all spheres of public administration aiming to build a smart and developed Bangladesh by 2041. We are working to ensure easy access to public services to reduce poverty and inequality and to attract domestic and foreign investment to achieve high growth rate. Our government has been continuously striving to establish good governance through regulatory and institutional reforms since it came to power. 'Digital Bangladesh' made our task of achieving good governance easier. We can achieve the desired level of good governance if we can implement the framework of 'Smart Bangladesh,' envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in continuation with the ongoing reforms and innovative initiatives to stay relevant in the era of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution.

#### **Establishment of Good governance**

#### **Madam Speaker**

201. To ensure sustainable and inclusive development, service quality improvement and good governance, we are implementing a range of reforms including financial sector reforms, prevention of corruption and many other preventive measures. The Citizen Charter under the Cabinet Division is being implemented in every government office to ensure accountability of the government employees, make information available to the citizen and to increase citizen's

participation in the service delivery process. To strengthen good governance and accountability, the annual performance agreements (APA) of ministries, divisions, departments, and agencies have incorporated the implementation of integrity strategies, grievance redressal management, e-governance and innovation, rights to information, and citizen charter action plans. In the Election Manifesto of the present government, priority has been given to the prompt service delivery, training and skill enhancement, institutional reforms, and the creation of a smart civil service. To enhance service delivery and reduce public harassment, the increased use of information technology in administrative activities is being encouraged. With a view to making these initiatives more effective, the Platform for Dialogue (P4D), National Integrity Strategy (NIS) Support Project (Phase-2), and the Project on Technical Support for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System Improvement in Bangladesh (Phase-3) are being implemented. Additionally, the initiative to establish an Integrated Service Delivery Platform (ISDP) will be undertaken to connect CRVS with social security programs and other service delivery processes.

### **Adoption of Zero Tolerance Policy Against Corruption**

#### **Madam Speaker**

202. For the purpose of ensuring an administrative structure based on the principles of good governance by curbing and preventing corruption for the country's real socio-economic development, the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. By digitizing various sectors, the government is tirelessly working to prevent corruption and alleviate public sufferings. To take effective measures against corruption, the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission are being fully automated. For this purpose, a Digital Archive, Digital Forensic Lab, and Investigation and Prosecution Management System (IPMS)

have been launched. Additionally, to raise public awareness for the prevention of corruption, 504 "Anti-Corruption Committees" have been formed in every metropolis town, district, and upazila with the respectable individuals from the locality. To ensure the prevention of corruption in government and semi-government offices and to empower the public in receiving services, "Public Hearing" sessions are being conducted. To establish the practice of honesty among the future generations, 6,638 "Shatata Stores" without seller have been established in various schools and madrasas. Furthermore, to enhance integrity, ethics, and values among the student community, 25,542 "Integrity Clubs" have been formed so far. Anti-corruption meetings, seminars, human chains, rallies, street plays, and debate competitions are being organized to increase public participation in preventing corruption.

### **Universal Pension System**

#### **Madam Speaker**

203. Bangabandhu worked for the economic and social emancipation of the people of this country throughout his life as well as to establish a society free from inequality. As part of completing Bangabandhu's unfinished task, his worthy daughter, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, included the concept of a universal pension in the Awami League's 2008 election manifesto, aiming to bring the population over eighteen years old under a sustainable and well-organized social security framework. In continuation of this, following the approval of the "Universal Pension Management Act 2023" by the National Parliament, the Finance Division issued the "Universal Pension Scheme Regulations, 2023," and the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Universal Pension Program on August 17, 2023. This initiative will represent a milestone in Bangladesh's history and a charter for the economic emancipation of the people.

204. The government has already established the National Pension Authority and began its operation. In alignment with the implementation of 'Smart Bangladesh,' a fully digital platform for the Universal Pension Management System has been launched. Now, any individual can register for the Universal Pension Scheme online and make payments via online banking, credit card/debit card, and mobile financial services (MFS). They can directly view their pension account balance, dividends received, and other details online. Individuals with limited or no knowledge of information technology can complete their registration at Union Digital Centres, internet cafes, and similar locations.

**Madam Speaker**

205. The Universal Pension started with 4 schemes: (1) Probash - for Bangladeshi expatriates, (2) Pragati - for private sector employees, (3) Suraksha - for self-employed individuals, and (4) Samata - for citizens living below the poverty line. All newly appointed public officials will be brought under this system. Already, a decision has been taken to include the newly appointed officials of the state-owned enterprises. From July 01, 2025, newly appointed officials of other public offices will be included in the system. The operating expenditures of the Universal Pension system is being borne by the Government and the profit earned by its fund is expected to be distributed among the pension policy holders. Hence, the Universal Pension system is going to be one of the most lucrative pension schemes in the world. If all the citizens above 18 years of age can be included in the system, their social safety will be bolstered.

**Development of investment-friendly environment**

**Madam Speaker**

206. Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has

launched an online one-stop service portal to provide information on all investment-related services through a digital inter-operable platform to increase domestic and foreign investment. 115 services are currently being provided by 38 organizations against the target of providing more than 150 services by various service providers through the said one stop service portal. An Investor Relationship Management System (IRMS) software has been developed for communication with investors and the storage of their information. Through this system, it will be possible to create databases of potential and existing investors, provide quick information based on investors' queries, digitalize manual records of investors, and conduct e-monitoring of BIDA-registered projects, along with other surveys and dynamic reporting. Besides, under the Bangladesh Investment Climate Improvement Program (BICIP), a plan has been taken up to carry out 110 reforms from 2024-25 to 2026-27 for easing business.

### **Economic zone**

207. We are working towards the goal of establishing 100 economic zones through Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) for planned and environment-friendly industrialization and attracting domestic and foreign investment. Among them, 29 economic zones are under implementation. More than 200 companies have already been allocated land with the aim of attracting about 23 billion USD investment in various economic zones. In addition, investment in private economic zones has been 5.5 billion USD. Currently 43 enterprises have started production in all these economic zones and another 70 industrial enterprises are under construction. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Industrial City is being established on about 33 thousand acres of land in Mirsarai, Sitakunda of Chattogram and Sonagazi of Feni, which will be the largest industrial city in South and Southeast Asia. With the objective of making the industrial city a self-sufficient one, all types of

services will be ensured and activities will be initiated to build environment-friendly facilities. The work of setting up Japan Economic Zone on 1,000 acres of land in Araihasar of Narayanganj, the first Indian Economic Zone on 857 acres of land in Mirsarai, Chittagong and the second one on 110 acres of land in Mongla, Bagerhat is in progress. Besides, the process of setting up a Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone on about 800 acres of land in Anwara, Chittagong is in progress. There are plans to start development activities of proposed economic zones in Gopalganj, Kushtia, Satkhira, Chandpur and Pabna. All tourism parks under BEZA (Sabrang Tourism Park, Naf Tourism Park, Sonadia Eco Tourism Park) will be made tourist friendly.

#### **National Logistics Policy 2024**

##### **Madam Speaker**

208. The National Logistics Policy 2024 has been approved with the aim of achieving sustainable economic growth by increasing domestic and international trade and enhancing investment capacity by developing a world-class technology-based, efficient and environment-friendly logistics system which will save time and cost. It is a very time-befitting document which is inclusive. The policy lays down the direction to establish a developed, prosperous and smart Bangladesh by 2041 by achieving national growth targets and increasing trade and investment capacity.

209. We are considering the logistics sector as a priority sector considering the need to reduce the cost of goods circulation process along with diversification of export products to meet the challenges of transition from the LDC status. Through the development of logistics sector, it will be possible to attract foreign investment and retain the competitiveness of Bangladeshi export products and services in the

post-LDC graduation era. In the 'National Logistics Policy 2024', there are guidelines on infrastructure development of the logistics sector, trade facilitation, digitized logistics management based on advanced technology, human resource and skill development, environment-friendly logistics sector management and safety and security of the logistics sector.

### **Integrated Budgeting and Accounting System (iBAS++)**

#### **Madam Speaker**

210. All financial activities of the government are being brought under an integrated electronic and smart system with a view to building a smart Bangladesh. Developed by the local experts, the system has several modules for budget formulation and implementation, accounting, online bill submission, electronic fund transfer (EFT) payment, automatic bank reconciliation and so on. The scope and capabilities of this digital platform are being enhanced in line with international norms and practices and changing domestic needs.

211. Currently, almost all government offices are preparing and submitting their budgets online. Salaries are being paid through EFT to all civil servants including primary school teachers and all members of the Defence Department using the iBAS<sup>++</sup> platform. Bangladesh missions abroad are also being brought under the iBAS<sup>++</sup> platform and already financial statements of 31 foreign missions have been completed through this system. The work on integration has been completed to automatically align with Civil, Defence and Railway accounting processes. iBAS<sup>++</sup> has recently achieved a certificate from the international standard setter ISO/IEC 27001:2013 in recognition to its service towards streamlining public financial management.

212. The inclusion of an asset management sub-module in iBAS<sup>++</sup> is in progress for managing various types of assets (buildings, vehicles, furniture, rolling stock, hardware, software) acquired by the government. If this is implemented, resources can be easily identified in government offices and budget allocations can be determined according to the future resource needs.

### **Integration of e-GP and iBAS<sup>++</sup>**

#### **Madam Speaker**

213. An e-Contract Management System has been developed by the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority as a submodule of e-GP to perform functions like preparation of contractor work plan, monitoring of work progress, quality check and automatic bill preparation based on invoices submitted by the contractor. The integration of e-CMS with iBAS<sup>++</sup> has been completed for the government procurement process and bill payment process to be carried out under a single system which will make easier financial transactions processing in less time with more transparency and speed. Currently, this program is being piloted in the Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Roads and High Ways and Directorate of Public Health Engineering. In the coming FY2024-25, payment of all bills of 16 more government departments will be processed through e-CMS and iBAS<sup>++</sup>.

#### **Welfare of pensioners**

214. The government has taken various measures to make it easier for pensioners to get their pension. All the retired government employees are getting their pension at the beginning of the month through EFT. Life verification through mobile app has been introduced for pensioners

on a pilot basis. Soon all pensioners across the country will be brought under this app. As a result, pensioners will be relieved from the obligation of appearing in person once a year to prove that they are alive and they will get pension sitting at home.

**Provision of EFT facility to the retired private teachers and employees**

215. The work on the process of payment of retirement benefits and welfare grants of retired teachers and employees under MPO by EFT is in progress. Once the system is in the place, it is expected that the sufferings of retired teachers and employees will be reduced to a great extent. Moreover, making payment of salaries and allowances to the MPO teachers and staff through EFT is in progress. As a result, teachers and employees will receive their salary and allowance directly through EFT in their bank account on the first day of the month sitting at home and their suffering will be reduced.

**Development of government cash management**

216. To consolidate the management of Government Assistances and Grants in Aid, a Personal Ledger Account (PL) has been opened under the Public Account of the Republic against Autonomous Bodies and projects being implemented under those bodies. At present, the transfer of government assistance to 162 autonomous bodies and 268 projects from the Consolidated Fund to their respective Personal Ledger Accounts under the Public Account of the Republic and the payment through EFT have begun. Soon other autonomous bodies will be brought under its ambit. This will play a positive role in improving the cash management as well as reducing the debt burden and interest expenses of the government.

## **A-Challan**

### **Madam Speaker**

217. Currently all commercial banks are connected with A-Challan system. As a result, revenues/fees can be deposited online from any location into all branches of 61 commercial banks by using internet banking, debit/credit card, mobile financial services. As the amount deposited through A-challan is instantly credited to the government account, the income of the government will be updated without any delay. It is to be noted that out of the target of Tk. 4 lakh 33 thousand crore of revenue for the FY2023-24, Tk. 1 lakh 45 thousand 809 crore have been collected through A-Challan till March 2024. Along with the development of refund system in A-Challan, integration of A-Challan system with BRTA, RJSC, DAMS, ASYCUDA World etc. is going on. If 100% use of A-Challan in revenue/fee collection process can be ensured, there will be instant recognition of the government's revenue and the difference between the revenue recorded by NBR and IBAS<sup>++</sup> will be eliminated.

### **Automation of VAT collection process**

218. National Board of Revenue has taken up the task of developing Electronic Fiscal Device Management System (EFDMS) for collection of Value Added Tax (VAT) at the retail level. A VAT Return submission module has been developed to enable business users to file their returns online using EFDMS. Necessary steps have been taken for capturing any revision of the figures of VAT and SD in the budget in all EFD and SDC devices at the field level. In the future there are plans to develop a mobile app for easy monitoring of VAT collection activities.

## **Efficient and people-oriented administration**

### **Madam Speaker**

219. Our government is determined to provide improved and quality services to the people and establish good governance by building a citizen-centric, transparent, accountable, knowledge-based, welfare-oriented, data-driven, automated and efficient smart administration. We want to build an efficient, information technology dependent, corruption free, patriotic and public welfare oriented administrative system through merit-based recruitment. Various steps have been taken to establish public service conduct and discipline among the government employees and to objectively evaluate their performance. In the light of Section 19 of the Public Service Act, 2018, the process of drafting the 'Work Evaluation Rules 2024' is underway by the Ministry of Public Administration for the purpose of objective performance evaluation of government employees. Laws/Policies have been formulated such as Public Service (Amendment) Act 2023', 'Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Formation and Cadre Order 2024'. The Ministry of Public Administration has already taken the initiative to implement the GEMS (Government Employee Management System) program. If this program is implemented, a reliable and dynamic smart database of about 19 lakh government employees will be created and through this it will be possible to carry out career planning, posting and promotion etc. of the government employees smoothly.

220. Time-befitting training is being provided at home and abroad to develop the service-oriented mindset and skills of government officials and employees. The skills of the officers and employees are enhancing because of the internal and external on-the-job training and expansion of merit-based scholarships and higher education opportunities. Digital infrastructure and systems are being introduced to speed up the delivery

of services along with improving the skills and mindset of the officers. Besides, steps have been taken to introduce health insurance for the government employees.

### **Modern and digital land management**

221. In our election manifesto, priority has been given to completely digitize land management to solve all the problems related to land management. To simplify the process of mutation cases and prevent fraud, after the launch of e-mutation program across the country except 3 hill districts from 1 July 2019, about 1 crore 35 lakh applications have been settled online so far. Currently around 4 lakh registered applications are being processed through the e-mutation system every month. At present, landowners pay land development tax online and receive QR code-enriched submissions instantly from anywhere in the world at any time. As part of digitizing land management, around 6 crore digital khatians and more than 75 thousand Mauza map sheets have already been uploaded online. All over Bangladesh 1 lakh 38 thousand maps have been digitized and satellite images have been taken. All citizens can now see the land record information from anywhere and anytime which is free of cost from a Virtual Record Room. A step has been taken to deliver e-parcha to the citizen's address and this responsibility is currently being performed by the Bangladesh Postal Department. Another step has been taken to immediately print land slips by setting up kiosks in various densely populated locations.

222. With a view to reducing the number of cases arising out of land disputes and facilitating land services, the Ministry of Land has reformed existing laws and framed new laws and regulations. Notable among them are- (1) "Land Offenses Remedy and Prevention Act, 2023" (2) Land Reforms Act' 2023 (3) Land Development Tax Act' 2023 (4) Hat and Bazar (Establishment and Management) Act' 2023 ( 5) State

Acquisition & Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 2023 (6) Sand and Soil Management (Amendment) Act, 2023.

### **Financial sector reforms and financial inclusion**

#### **Madam Speaker**

223. A number of reform programs have already been carried out to maintain the stability of the financial sector and to ensure deeper engagement of the financial sector with the grassroots of the country to ensure sustainable development. For example, Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and modern payment systems are being expanded to increase participation in financial inclusion activities. Various initiatives have been taken to develop the MFS system by reducing cash out charges and increasing transaction limits, use of MFS accounts in micro credit programs including disbursement of social security program allowances under G2P system, and expansion of sub-branch and agent banking systems. As a result, its popularity and acceptance at the individual and business level is increasing and the involvement of people in the financial sector is also increasing at a rapid pace. As of January 2024, the number of agents registered under MFS is about 17 lakh 39 thousand, the number of customers is about 22 crore and the number of active customers is 8 crore 37 lakh. Moreover, steps are being taken to assess how the unpaid services can be included in the national income accounting.

224. In addition to enhancing the transparency of the transaction system, steps have been taken to make it digitized and cashless to ensure easy and accurate collection and storage of all transaction related information. Inter-operable digital transaction platform 'Binimoy' has been launched on November 13, 2022 with the aim of making the

country's financial transactions easy and affordable in the progress of building Smart Bangladesh. As of December 2023, 37 banks have launched Bangla QR code supported apps under the 'Cashless Bangladesh' program. Hopefully, through this programme cashless transactions will soon become popular among the people of the country because of its ease of use and cost-effectiveness.

225. To accelerate the financing of environment-friendly programs, a refinancing scheme of Tk. 1,000 crore from the Bangladesh Bank's own funds is in operation. Under this scheme, Tk. 876.20 crore has been disbursed till February 2024 to various eco-friendly products/initiatives such as biogas plant, green building, green industry, waste treatment plant and development of eco-friendly brick production project. Besides, steps have been taken to update the policies related to green bonds with the aim of financing from the domestic sources the activities undertaken to deal with the impact of climate change.

226. Financial Projection Model (FPM) has been implemented to identify potential risks and vulnerabilities in the financial system. Interbank Transaction Matrix to assess the trends, risk and contagious effects of interbank transactions has implemented. Health assessment tools are being used to analyze the relative position of banks on the basis of relevant indicators. Bangladesh Systemic Risk Dashboard has been set up to identify systemic risks and present Bangladesh Bank's assessment in this regard to the stakeholders on a half-yearly basis. Under the Basel-3 guidelines, it has also emphasized on increasing the quality of capital in addition to increasing the amount of reserve capital of banks.

227. The 'Bank Companies (Amendment) Act 2023' was approved by the Parliament on 21 June 2023 to ensure discipline and good governance in the banking sector. The 'Bank Deposit Insurance Act-2000' has been amended and renamed as the 'Deposit Protection Act-2023'. To prevent money laundering and financing of terrorism and to recover laundered money or assets from various countries of the world including Swiss banks, the report on the determination of strategies and the guidelines titled 'Laundered Money Recovery: Legal Framework and Strategic Process' have been approved.

#### **Digital Banking Service Launched**

228. As part of the initiative to develop 'Smart Bangladesh,' announced by the Government of Bangladesh, letters of intent were issued on October 25, 2023, for two digital banks: Nagad Digital Bank PLC and Kori Digital Bank PLC. These digital banks aim to provide information and technology-based banking services to the people. Plans are underway to increase the number of digital banks in the future. A credit scoring system utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning technology will be introduced to facilitate loan services from these digital banks. As a result, it will be possible to identify fake and anonymous borrowers very easily and the loan processing will be much easier for the genuine borrowers.

## **Chapter 8**

### **Proposed Revenue Collection Activities FY2024-25**

#### **Madam Speaker**

229. Government revenue target is set based on the size of the budget. Government revenue is collected mainly from three sources: (a) NBR tax revenue, (b) non-NBR tax revenue and (c) non-tax revenue. Like previous years, the major portion of government revenue will be collected by National Board of Revenue (NBR). Almost 86 percent of total revenue has been collected by NBR in recent years. The main responsibility of NBR is to collect revenue. Simultaneously, it also works for promotion of industrialization, creating employment, facilitating trade, protecting local industries and attracting foreign investment. Despite the post pandemic repercussions and the global economic turbulence exacerbated by wars and conflicts in different regions, revenue collection has exhibited sustained growth during this period. NBR is steadily inching towards SMART NBR aligned with the vision of SMART Bangladesh.

230. Our revenue collection has shown a decent growth up to April 2024 in the current fiscal year despite Ukraine-Russia war, geopolitical tension in the Middle-East and many others global economic turmoil. Despite all the barriers, we are trying to maintain the momentum of economic and GDP growth. Our fiscal policy is being planned taking into consideration the global instability and tension in international trade and commerce. This year's budget put emphasis on creation of employment and heavy industrialization so that people can face the

challenges of graduation from developing to upper-middle income country alongside revenue collection.

231. Budget for the FY2024-25 has been formulated with a view to accelerating the growth of the economy to prepare for LDC graduation reaching upper-middle income nation, creating new jobs, sustain GDP growth, promote local industries, increase investment through protection and trade facilitation, development of export oriented and heavy industrial enterprises and promote **Made in Bangladesh** concept. I am now placing the proposals before this August House regarding Customs, Value Added Tax and Income Tax in the budget for FY2024-25 taking due notes from the proposals of various government and non-government organizations, business community and in consultation with the related stakeholders.

**Madam Speaker**

232. Bangladesh has already graduated from the Least Developed Country (LDC) to Developing category. We are moving forward with the goal of becoming an upper middle-income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041. In this context, there is no alternative to increasing the Tax-GDP ratio to sustain the country's ongoing development. Tax exemption is one of the major obstacles to improve the Tax-GDP ratio. Instead of giving tax exemptions, on each case, whether it is project implementation or maintenance work or purchase of essential commodities, the required amount of tax (VAT, import duty, supplementary duty or income tax to be paid) should be allocated in the budget of the related office and required taxes should be paid from that budgetary allocation. We should not issue special orders for exemptions unless there is an extraordinary situation. This will bring transparency

in revenue administration and help us to manage budget deficit better. It is my firm belief that the Tax-GDP ratio will significantly increase if the tax exemption is reduced and this will accelerate revenue collection.

**Madam Speaker**

233. Initiatives have been taken to provide easy and seamless services to the taxpayers, traders and citizens by making the Income-tax, Customs and VAT wings of the National Board of Revenue smart, automated and digitized. Most of the reform measures have already been implemented by this time. Under a joint initiative of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) the Document Verification System (DVS) is successfully running to verify the accuracy of audited accounts submitted by the taxpayers. This initiative has increased authenticity and transparency in income shown by the taxpayer company. Through Electronic payment (e- payment) and MFS (Mobile Financial Service) system, taxpayers can now easily pay duties and taxes directly from their bank accounts and mobile wallet at their convenient time without having to go to the bank.

**Madam Speaker**

234. Income tax is an effective system of establishing equality and social justice. Considering the aftermath of the implementation of new Income Tax Act, 2023, instead of raising tax rates, initiatives are taken to bring more tax payers in the tax net by reforming tax policy through rationalizing tax rates, particularly expanding higher tax-base, encouraging e-TIN holders to file returns and promoting voluntary compliance. The collaboration between National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) for exchange

of information through system integration for data exchange, data pulling, data storing and data accuracy verification has facilitated new taxpayer identification and collection of arrear by detecting tax delinquencies. In order to modernize and automate the tax payment, E-TDS system has been introduced to monitor tax deduction and collection at source and E- Return system has been brought for return filing. This initiative has made it easier for taxpayers to file their income tax return and the number of new taxpayers is also increasing. At present number of e-TIN registered taxpayers has surpassed 1 crore. Until April this fiscal year, NBR received 41 lakhs tax returns from taxpayers, mainly individuals, which was 27 percent higher than that of the same period in fiscal year 2023-24. Various policy measures and the requirement of proof of submission of return (PSR) to get different government services have driven the growth of tax returns.

**Madam Speaker**

235. The VAT and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012 has been implemented since 01 July 2019 by streamlining Value Added Tax Act and Rules to ensure international best practices and business friendly environment. To make this law more effective and online based, the VAT Online Project has been implemented successfully. Automated registration and submission of return online is a significant accomplishment of this project. VAT registration, return submission and related other activities can now be done online. In order to ensure the collection of proper revenue, the VAT wing of National Board of Revenue has set up 25241 EFDMSs (Electronic Fiscal Device Machine System) and 656 SDCs (Sales Data Controller). Currently, the Value Added Tax (VAT) registrants' number has surpassed 5 lakhs which is 15.35 percent higher than the fiscal year of 2023-24. I am quite

confident that the number of VAT registration will increase further by the end of this fiscal year.

**Madam Speaker**

236. In order to bolster international business, promote investment, facilitate trade, alleviate business and commercial risks and ensure seamless supply chain system, Customs Act, 2023 has been enacted incorporating international best practices which will be effected from June 6, 2024. Web based ASYCUDA World System is being used in regular custom operation since 2013. The interfacing of Computer systems between ASYCUDA and Bangladesh Bank, Sonali Bank, all scheduled banks, EPB, BEPZA, BBS, BRTA, IATA, Chittagong Port Authority and other major stakeholders has been implemented. It has eased monitoring of e-LC, prevention of money laundering, dangerous cargo monitoring and container management and assessment of imported goods and exports through manifest data sharing. To introduce paperless customs and Ease of Doing Business, initiatives such as National Single Window (NSW) for fast clearance and accelerated imports and exports, Automation of Bond Management, introduction of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), non-intrusive inspection, Advance Ruling, Pre Arrival Processing of consignment and E-auction program have been implemented. Also, Customs Risk Management Commissionerate has been established to introduce automated risk management system.

**Madam Speaker**

237. Several reforms initiatives are underway to increase capacity and efficiency of revenue administration to build a developed, prosperous and SMART Bangladesh in 2041. With a view to overcome the

challenges of the modern world, officers and staff members of the National Board of Revenue are being equipped with timely training at various levels focusing to cultivate a taxpayer-friendly mind-set and ensure proper and lawful collection of revenue. In order to expand the economic reach into remote areas of the country and sustain growth momentum, the expansion activities of National Board of Revenue are underway with the aim of improving the quality of services to all the citizen across the board and increasing the tax network. We firmly believe that the National Board of Revenue will be able to meet the revenue target set for the FY2024-25 by taking advantage of time befitting tax policy, online based efficient revenue administration and participation of the government and non-government organizations, business people and forums and all other stakeholders at all levels in this regard.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Value Added Tax, Income Tax, and Import-Export Duty**

#### **Value Added Tax**

##### **Madam Speaker**

238. The government has undertaken multidimensional reforms and transformative initiatives aimed at fostering economic and social development in the country and enhancing the standard of living of the people. To sustain this development momentum, there is no alternative to increasing revenue collection. Despite the adverse effects of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, compounded by the middle-east crisis on the global economy, appropriate measures for revenue collection has ensured our uninterrupted economic progress. You are aware that, the predominant source of revenue for the nation emanates from the Value Added Tax. VAT is a modern and scientific indirect tax. Realizing the imperative of fostering a thriving business environment for achieving socio-economic goals, considerable focus has been given towards the streamlining and modernizing of the VAT system during the formulation of this year's budget. At the core of the budget formulation, we have considered the priorities for increasing VAT revenue, broadening the VAT-net, bolstering support for domestic industries, attracting foreign investments, promoting the production of import-substitute goods, fostering job creation and streamlining VAT regulations. In this regard I am placing following proposals in VAT sector for the kind consideration of this August House.

##### **Madam Speaker**

239. With the aim of removing practical and procedural complexities,

facilitating trade and increasing revenue collection, I am presenting the following proposals regarding the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012 and the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Rules, 2016.

- a) I propose to bring necessary amendments in Section 2(21) of the Act to consider the person or units having annual turnover exceeding TK 10 crore to be the withholding entities.
- b) To resolve the technical and legal complexities, I propose to bring necessary amendments in the provisions of Section 78(2) which pertains to the Value Added Tax authority and Section 81 relating to the delegation of power.
- c) With regard to trade facilitation, I propose for necessary amendments in the relevant provision to pay 10 percent instead of 20 percent of the demand excluding fine, stipulated in the impugned order while submitting an application for appeal to the Appellate Tribunal and Appeal Commissionerate.
- d) I propose to bring necessary amendments in the relevant section of the Act to preclude filing of petition to any court against the orders, decisions or proceedings issued by any VAT officer except the inception of any procedure or filing any suit under the provision of VAT Act or Rules.
- e) I propose to bring necessary amendments in the relevant provision to include the Cost and Management Accountants as VAT consultants.
- f) In case of any taxable supply of which value exceeds TK 25000, there is a provision to issue a VAT challan mentioning the name, address and Business Identification Number (BIN) of the purchaser. Nevertheless, not all the purchaser has the obligation to obtain BIN. Considering this aspect, I propose for necessary amendments in the relevant provisions and VAT forms.

- g) I propose for necessary amendments in the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012, the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Rules, 2016 and certain notifications to correct clerical errors.

**Madam Speaker**

240. Excise duty on bank accounts and air tickets are collected as per provisions of the Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (Act No. 1 of 1944). Keeping the excise duty imposed upon the air tickets unchanged, I propose to rationalize the slabs and amount of excise duties on Bank accounts as per the following:

- a) I propose to keep unchanged the amount of excise duty across the existing 3 slabs up to Tk. Ten lakh.
- b) For the existing slab ranging from Tk. Ten lakh one to Tk. One crore, instead of the current excise duty of Tk. three thousand, I propose-
  - i) For amounts from Tk. Ten lakh one to Tk. Fifty lakh, an excise duty of Tk. Three thousand;
  - ii) For amounts from Tk. Fifty lakh one to Tk. One crore, an excise duty of Tk. Five thousand.
- c) For the existing slab ranging from Tk. One crore one to Tk. Five crore, instead of the current excise duty of Tk. Fifteen thousand, I propose-
  - i) For amounts from Tk. One crore one to Tk. Two crore, an excise duty of Tk. Ten thousand;
  - ii) For amounts from Tk. Two crore one to Tk. Five crore, an excise duty of Tk. twenty thousand.
- d) I propose to keep the amount of excise duty unchanged for the slab exceeding Tk. five crore.

Also, I propose the exemption of Excise duty on the accounts of the

depositors or foreign lenders kept in the Offshore Banking Units under the jurisdiction of the Offshore Banking Act, 2024 (Act No. II of 2024).

**Madam Speaker**

241. In order to increase revenue collection and enhance VAT compliance, I present the following proposals to this August House.

- a) I propose to fix 10 percent supplementary duty on all kinds of Ice-cream instead of existing rate of 5 percent.
- b) I propose to fix 30 percent supplementary duty on carbonated beverages [as per Bangladesh Standards (BDS 1123:2013) the beverage containing ingredients in specified amounts where the caffeine content is maximum 145 mg/per liter] instead of the existing 25 percent. At the same time, on the beverages containing ingredients in such content which is different from the specified amount of the carbonated beverage defined in the Bangladesh Standards (BDS 1123:2013), I propose to fix 40 percent supplementary duty instead of the existing 35 percent.
- c) Cigarette is outright harmful for human health. In order to reduce the consumption of tobacco and such kind of products and to increase revenue from this sector, I propose to fix supplementary duty at 66% instead of 65% on cigarette containing tobacco products stated in the second schedule of the Act.
- d) I propose to fix 20 percent supplementary duty only upon the SIM/RUIM card enabled mobile telecom service (Service Code S012.10) instead of existing 15 percent. Besides, I propose to fix TK 300 as Value Added Tax (VAT) for the supply of each SIM/e SIM card instead of the existing VAT amount of TK 200.
- e) To improve the VAT compliance and increase revenue collection, I propose to fix 15 percent VAT at local manufacturing stage on

Mango bar, Mango juice, Pineapple juice, Guava juice and Tamarind juice instead of 5 percent.

- f) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT instead of 5 percent at local manufacturing stage on energy saving bulbs capacitated from 1 to 50 watt.
- g) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT instead of 5 percent at local manufacturing stage on tube light of 18 watt and 36 watt.
- h) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT instead of 7.5 percent at local manufacturing stage on cigarette paper/bidi paper.
- i) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT on the service of ‘Purchaser of Auctioned Goods’ (Service code S060.00) instead of existing rate of 7.5 percent.
- j) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT on the service of ‘Amusement Park and Theme Park’ (Service code S064.10) instead of existing rate of 7.5 percent.
- k) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT on the service of ‘Auctioneer’ (Service code S009.00) instead of existing rate of 10 percent.
- l) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT on the service of ‘Mechanical Laundry’ (Service code S013.00) instead of existing rate of 10 percent.
- m) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT on the service of ‘Security Service’ (Service code S040.00) instead of existing rate of 10 percent.
- n) I propose to fix 15 percent VAT on the service of ‘Lottery Ticket Seller’ (Service code S066.00) instead of existing rate of 10 percent.
- o) I propose to increase the specific tax for non-machine-made normal bricks (non-refractory building bricks), except bricks used in facing, from existing 450 taka (per thousand) to 500 taka (per thousand); for machine-made or mechanically manufactured normal bricks (non-refractory building bricks), except bricks used in facing, from

existing 500 taka (per thousand) to 600 taka (per thousand); for machine- made or mechanically manufactured bricks Grade I (with three holes, ten holes, seventeen holes and multi cored bricks) from existing 700 taka (per thousand) to 800 taka (per thousand); for machine- made or mechanically manufactured bricks Grade II (with three holes, ten holes, seventeen holes) from existing 700 taka (per thousand) to 800 taka (per thousand); for bricks chips from existing 700 taka (per 100 CFT) to 800 taka (per 100 CFT) and for Micad Bats from existing 500 taka (per 100 CFT) to 600 taka (per 100 CFT).

- p) I propose the withdrawal of the existing VAT exemption upon Tour Operator service.

**Madam Speaker**

242. In an effort to sustain the continuing growth trajectory of the domestic industries as well as increase the revenue collection, I am presenting the following proposals to this August House:

- a) I propose withdrawal of full exemption and imposition of 7.5 percent value added tax on air conditioners at local manufacturing stage while continuing existing facility of exemption of VAT (including Advance Tax) and supplementary duty (where applicable) on imports and local purchases of raw materials and spare parts necessary for the manufacturing of the aforesaid till June 30, 2025 as well as extension of existing VAT exemption facility for production of compressors till June 30, 2025.
- b) For the production of refrigerators and freezers, I propose imposition of 7.5 percent VAT instead of 5 percent at the local manufacturing stage while continuing existing facility of exemption of VAT (including Advance Tax) and supplementary duty (where applicable) on imports and local purchases of raw materials and

spare parts necessary for the manufacturing of the aforesaid till June 30, 2025.

**Madam Speaker**

243. In order to attract domestic and foreign investment, create employment, produce import substitute goods and maintain the ongoing dynamics of domestic Industries development, I propose to bring necessary amendments to facilitate VAT exemption and continuation of exemption in the following sectors:

- a) I propose the tenure of the notification no. SRO-229-Ain-/2019/65-VAT, dated: 30/06/2019 to be extended by one year, therefore till June 30, 2025, regarding the concessional facilities to the local manufacturing and assembling of mobile telephone sets or cellular phones.
- b) I propose the extension of concessional facilities for the local manufacturing of polypropylene staple fiber and imports of the raw materials used in the production of the aforesaid till June 30, 2025.
- c) I propose extension of existing concessional facility on Container for compressed or liquefied gas of Iron or steel (LPG Cylinder) at the local manufacturing stage.
- d) With the intention of building a Smart Bangladesh as directed by the Honorable Prime Minister as well as developing IT and computer industry, with regard to the concerned notification of concessional facility, I propose necessary amendments to exempt VAT upon the local purchases of the raw materials and spare parts thereof.
- e) I propose 3 (three) years extension of the VAT exemption facility on “optical fiber cable” at the production stage, thereby till June 30, 2027.
- f) With a view to fostering local industries, I propose the extension of concessional facility for the manufacturing of Linear Alkyl Benzene

Sulphonic Acid (LABSA) and Sodium Lauryl Ether Sulphate (SLES) at the production stage till June 30, 2027.

**Madam Speaker**

244. I am presenting the following proposal to ensure the health services of the people of the country:

I propose to extend the tenure of exemption from Value Added Tax (excluding AT) and Supplementary duty (where applicable) on import of certain raw materials used in the production of sanitary napkins and diapers, for the protection of women and children, till June 30, 2025.

**Madam Speaker**

245. In order to reduce the consumption of tobacco products and increase revenue from this sector, I propose the following proposals on tobacco and tobacco products:

- a) I propose to increase the price level of low slab 10-sticks/pack cigarettes to Tk. 50 and higher and supplementary duty to 60 percent. Apart from this, I propose to increase the price level of medium slab 10-sticks/pack cigarettes to Tk. 70 and higher, high slab to Tk. 120 and higher and premium slab to Tk. 160 and higher and the rate of supplementary duty for these three slabs to 65.5 percent.
- b) I propose to keep unchanged the MRP of non-filtered 25-stick/pack bidi at Tk. 18, 12-stick/pack bidi at Tk. 9 and 8-stick/pack bidi at Tk. 6 and 30 percent supplementary duty for all. I also propose to continue existing price of filtered 20stick/pack bidi at Tk. 19, 10-stick/pack bidi Tk. 10 and supplementary duty 40 percent for all.
- c) I propose to continue the supplementary duty at 55 percent with an

increase of Maximum Retail Price of Jarda to Tk. 48 per 10 grams and Maximum Retail Price of Gul to Tk. 25 per 10 grams.

**Madam Speaker**

246. In order to build a Smart Bangladesh, bolstering revenue generation and facilitating trade stands as the paramount avenue. It's heartening to note that VAT registration and return filings are now seamlessly conducted online. Moreover, the deployment of Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD)/ Sales Data Controller (SDC) machines, outsourced on a revenue-sharing basis, has commenced, alongside VAT revenue payment facilitated through E-payment and A-Challan. These steps have notably augmented transparency and accountability within revenue administration. Meanwhile, an analysis of VAT expenditure has been conducted by the National Board of Revenue, which will be instrumental for budget formulation and policymaking endeavors. In 2022, the total VAT expenditure, i.e., VAT exemption was amounted to Tk. 129,570 crore. To rationalize VAT exemptions, LDC Graduation and enhance the tax-GDP ratio, gradual phasing out of exemptions has been initiated in various sectors, having considered their capacities. I firmly believe that these initiatives will culminate in achieving the targeted VAT revenue, thereby playing a pivotal role to embark the journey towards a developed, prosperous and Smart Bangladesh.

**Direct Tax: Income Tax**

**Madam Speaker**

247. Income tax is the internal driving force of a country's economy and plays an important role in maintaining social and economic equality in the country. Direct taxes are generally imposed on a progressive basis, with the aim of distributing the burden equitably so that higher income individuals pay a larger share of their income or wealth as

income tax than lower income individuals. Income tax plays an important role in establishing equality and social justice through redistribution of income. At present income tax contributes about 35% of the total revenue collected by the National Board of Revenue. The average growth in income tax collection is more than 16 percent, which continues to increase in spite of the corona epidemic and continuation of global war situation. Nevertheless, increasing the tax-GDP ratio is a challenge for the National Board of Revenue. There is no alternative to internal revenue to overcome this challenge. A welfare-oriented and people-friendly income tax reform is an important tool to achieve this objective. The proposed budget continues to provide policy and tax support for building a Smart Bangladesh, preparing for LDC graduation, achieving revenue growth and economic growth, redistributing wealth and reducing inequality, keeping inflation at a bearable level, preserving and promoting domestic industries, earning foreign currency and diversifying exports.

**Madam Speaker**

248. The current government is pursuing a taxpayer, business and investment friendly tax policy in tax collection with a view to establishing a strong tax culture in the country. The essence of this policy is to gradually reduce the tax burden by investing in the economy and increasing the tax-GDP ratio and motivating taxpayers to better tax compliance. Efforts are underway to increase the contribution of direct tax to revenue to 42 percent by 2031 and 50 percent by 2041 by enacting taxpayer, business and investment-friendly income tax policies as directed by Honourable Prime Minister to build Smart Bangladesh. In continuation of this, digital transformation, tax-net expansion, administrative capacity building activities are ongoing with the aim of increasing revenue collection from internal sources.

**Madam Speaker**

249. I am at this stage presenting some important proposals related to income tax for the financial year 2024-25 through you to this August House.

**Madam Speaker**

250. You are aware that the maximum tax free income threshold for individual taxpayers was Taka 1 lakh 65 thousand in FY 2009-10, which has been increased to Taka 3 lakh 50 thousand in FY2023-24 in a phased manner. The tax-free income threshold is higher for women, senior citizens, physically challenged persons, members of the third gender and war wounded freedom fighters. This has brought back some comfort in the life of ordinary taxpayers due to reduction in tax burden and encouraged tax payers to pay taxes regularly. I propose to keep the tax-free income thresholds of natural individual taxpayers and firms unchanged for the financial year 2024-25. At the same time, it is proposed to increase the existing maximum tax rate from 25 percent to 30 percent for natural individual taxpayers and firms with tax slab adjustments. The following table presents the tax free income threshold, tax slab and tax rate for Natural Individual Taxpayer and Firm:

**Natural Individual Taxpayer and Firm Tax free Income Threshold**

<b>Tax exempted income</b>	<b>Current 2023-24</b>	<b>Proposed 2024-25 and 2025-26</b>
General Taxpayer	3 lakhs 50 Thousand	Unchanged
Women and Senior Citizen above 65 years of age	4 lakhs	Unchanged
Physically Challenged persons	4 lakhs 75 thousand	Unchanged
War wounded gazetted freedom fighter	5 lakhs	Unchanged
Third gender tax payers	4 lakhs 75 thousand	Unchanged
The income tax-free threshold would be increased for parents or legal guardians of physically challenged child/adapted child by Tk. 50,000 for each child.		

### Natural Individual Taxpayer and Firm Tax Slab and Tax rate

Current Tax slabs 2023-24	Current Tax rate 2023-24	Proposed tax slab 2024-25 and 2025-26	Proposed Tax rate 2024-25 and 2025-26
Up to Tk. 3,50,000/-	Nil	Up to Tk. 3,50,000/-	Nil
Next Tk. 1,00,000/-	5%	Next Tk. 1,00,000/-	5%
Next Tk. 3,00,000/-	10%	Next Tk. 4,00,000/-	10%
Next Tk. 4,00,000/-	15%	Next Tk. 5,00,000/-	15%
Next Tk. 5,00,000/-	20%	Next Tk. 5,00,000/-	20%
On Balance	25%	Next Tk. 20,00,000/-	25%
		On Balance	30%

### Madam Speaker

251. I propose to retain the proposed tax rate for 2024-25 for the assessment year 2025-26 to facilitate the expansion of trade, improve investor confidence in the country's tax system and encourage local and foreign investment, thereby introducing a prospective tax system in Bangladesh. I believe that through a prospective tax system, taxpayers can do proper tax planning and help increase tax compliance.

### Madam Speaker

252. At present, the minimum tax applicable to taxpayers other than company taxpayers in Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Chittagong City Corporation is 5 thousand taka. For other City Corporations, it is Taka 4 thousand. For other areas outside the City Corporation, minimum tax is Taka 3 thousand. I propose to keep the existing structure of minimum tax unchanged.

### Madam Speaker

253. Surcharge is collected from wealthy individual taxpayers at certain percentage of the income tax based on their net wealth. This

provision of surcharge has been in force for quite a long time. Surcharge of individual taxpayers ensures balanced distribution of income and wealth along with economic development of society. In case of surcharge imposition, on the basis of individual taxpayers disclosed net wealth value to simplify enforcement of surcharge levy and reduce the burden of the middle class taxpayers. Currently, the rate of surcharge payable up to the net asset value of Tk 4 crore is nil. If the net asset value exceeds Tk 4 crore, the surcharge is 10 percent and if the net asset value exceeds the maximum limit of Tk 50 crore, the surcharge amount is 35 percent. I propose to keep the existing structure of surcharge unchanged.

**Madam Speaker**

254. Currently many sector-wise company tax rates are effective. I propose to conditionally make the tax rate from 27.5% to 25% for companies that are not publicly traded as defined in the Income Tax Act, 2023. In this case, all types of income and receipts and all types of expenses and investments above 5 lakh Taka in each single transaction and above 36 lakh Taka in total annually must be done through bank transfer. In order to further formalize the economy and encourage the establishment of one-person companies, I propose to make the one-person company tax rate from 22.5% to 20%, subject to compliance with the same conditions as non-listed companies. It is proposed to conditionally make the tax rate from 22.5% to 20% for listed companies if shares exceeding a certain amount of paid-up capital are transferred through IPO (Initial Public Offering). Currently, as part of the effort to achieve the country's tax-GDP rate growth target every year, I propose to increase the tax rate for cooperative societies from 15% to 20% keeping other tax rates fixed as per last financial year. The table below proposes the company tax rates for the fiscal year 2024-25 and 2025-26:

Description	Existing 2023-24		Proposed 2024-25 and 2025-26	
	Tax Rate	On failure to comply with conditions	Tax Rate	On failure to comply with conditions
Publicly traded company that transfer shares worth more than 10 percent of its paid up capital through Initial Public Offering (IPO)	20%	22.5%	22.5%	20%
Publicly traded company that transfer shares worth ten percent or less than ten percent of its paid up capital through IPO	22.5%	25%	25%	22.5%
Defined in Income Tax Act, 2023 as a company but Non-publicly traded company	27.5%	30%	27.5%	25%
One Person Company (OPC)	22.5%	25%	22.5%	20%
Publicly traded bank, insurance and financial institution (except merchant bank)	37.5%	Condition not applicable	37.5%	Rebate not applicable
Non-publicly traded bank, insurance and financial institution	40%	Condition not applicable	40%	Rebate not applicable
Merchant bank	37.5%	Condition not applicable	37.5%	Rebate not applicable
Company producing all sorts of tobacco items including cigarette, bidi, chewing tobacco and gul	45% (+) 2.5 % Surcha rge	Condition not applicable	45% (+) 2.5 % Surcha rge	Rebate not applicable
If a publicly traded mobile phone operator company holds	40%	Condition not	40%	Rebate not applicable

Description	Existing 2023-24		Proposed 2024-25 and 2025-26	
	Tax Rate	On failure to comply with conditions	Tax Rate	On failure to comply with conditions
at least 10% of its paid-up capital, out of which Pre-Initial Public Offering Placement cannot exceed 5%.		applicable		
Non-publicly traded mobile operator Company	45%	Condition not applicable	45%	Rebate not applicable
Cooperative Society	15%	Condition not applicable	20%	Rebate not applicable
*Condition: All types of income and receipts and all types of expenses and investments above 5 lakh Taka in each single transaction and above 36 lakh Taka in total annually must be done through bank transfer.				

### Madam Speaker

255. It is necessary to keep the country's economy dynamic in the changing economic situation due to the ongoing global crisis. In order to generate and sustain effective demand in the economy, we need to provide more revenue on the one hand to generate sufficient public spending and on the other hand to keep the economic activity dynamic in the private sector. Incidentally, the introduction of Data Verification System (DVS) has created legal complications in the disclosure of undisclosed income and assets of various companies. Moreover, due to unavoidable reasons including ignorance of the taxpayer in filing the return, there may be errors in showing the acquired assets. In this situation, I propose to add a clause on tax incentives in the Income Tax Act with a view to providing taxpayers with an opportunity to correct this error in their income tax returns and to increase the flow of money

into the mainstream of the economy. According to the proposed provisions, no authority can raise any question if a taxpayer pays fixed tax rates for immovable properties like flats, apartments and land and 15% tax on other resources including cash, irrespective of the existing laws of the country.

**Madam Speaker**

256. Under the smooth leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister, Bangladesh today has taken a leading role in the developed world. Therefore, in line with the developed world, the government has adopted a policy of progressively following the best practices of income tax laws. In continuation of this, various cc or kilowatt-based environmental surcharges were imposed on several vehicles in the fiscal year 2023-24 as an initiative to reduce the country's environmental pollution due to the concept of imposing taxes on sectors that are harmful to public health in the developed world. I propose to maintain the existing structure of environment surcharge in this financial year.

**Madam Speaker**

257. Financial inclusion, formalization of the economy, expansion of the tax-net and increase in tax compliance are some of the key drivers in developing the formal economy in the country. The tax policy followed by the present government is to continuously rationalize tax rates while expanding the tax base. In pursuance of this policy, I propose the following proposals in the budget to create new areas of revenue collection and to bring about equal competition in business:

- a) To include resorts, motels, restaurants, convention centres in the definition of specified persons for the purpose of deduction or collection of tax at source;

- b) Provide that all such persons who are legally liable to file a return under section 166 shall file a return under section 180 in the self-assessment manner;
- c) Imposing obligation to furnish proof of return on obtaining and renewing licenses of hotels, restaurants, motels, hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and community centres, convention halls or similar services;
- d) Providing for a penalty of not less than 20,000 taka and not more than 50,000 taka for failure to produce proof of filing of return at the place of business;
- e) Impose Tax on any gross income received by a company, which is not tax-exempt or a grant or any tax, duty or duty of any kind, not liable to file a return;
- f) To rationalize the rate of bank or financial institution tax deduction on the amount paid or borrowed by the bank or financial institution in respect of the local letter of credit opened or made for the purchase of Rice, wheat, round potato, onion, garlic, beans, gram, lentil, ginger, turmeric, dry chillies, dal, maize, coarse flour, flour, salt, edible oil, sugar, black pepper, cinnamon, almonds, cloves, cassia leaves, jute, cotton and yarn;
- g) Substitute more clearly the existing provision of deduction of tax at source against the amount payable to Workers Participation Fund, Workers Welfare Fund and Workers Welfare Foundation;
- h) Increasing the rate of deduction of tax from distribution of income or any license fee or any other fee or charge paid by any cellular mobile phone operator;
- i) Deduction at source at the rate of 20% from the interest income of Trusts, Private Associations, Government Universities, MPO institutions. Deduction of tax at the rate of 10% from the interest income of various funds and primary schools;

- j) Rationalizing the rate of deduction of tax against purchase of power from captive power producers;
- k) Rationalizing the rate of collection of tax on income received against services rendered in Bangladesh to a non-resident;
- l) Inclusion of clauses (a), (aa), (aaa) of sub-section (1) of section 17 as well as (b), (c) and (e) of Registration Act, 1908 (Act No. XVI of 1908) to provide for applicability of collection of tax at source in respect of transfer of deeds;
- m) Providing rates and manner for the collection of tax specified in the Schedule in respect of the grant or renewal of a license by any person responsible for the grant or renewal of a license of the manufacturer of bricks according to ইট প্রস্তুত ও ভাটা স্থাপন (ননয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন, ২০১৩ (Act No. 59 of 2013);

**Madam Speaker**

258. As a supporter of building Smart Bangladesh, I propose to exempt from tax the income arising from any of the following business activities of a resident individual or a non-resident Bangladeshi natural person, for three years, on the condition that all business activities of such person are cashless, namely:-

- a) AI based solution development;
- b) Blockchain based solution development;
- c) Robotics process outsourcing;
- d) Software as a service;
- e) Cyber security service;
- f) Digital data analytics and data science;
- g) Mobile application development service;
- h) Software development and customization;

- j) Software test lab service;
- j) Web listing, website development and service;
- k) IT assistance and software maintenance service;
- l) Geographic Information Service;
- m) Digital animation development;
- n) digital graphics design;
- o) digital data entry and processing;
- p) e-learning platform and e-publication;
- q) IT freelancing;
- r) call center service;
- s) Document conversion, imaging and digital archiving.

**Madam Speaker**

259. In continuation of expansion of the tax base, I propose to rationalize the tax deduction at source against the supply of gas and petroleum oil and the rate of collection of tax at source from milk powder, aluminium products, and ceramic products and calculate such tax as minimum tax. Moreover, from the idea of taxing sectors harmful to public health and to reduce the health expenditure arising indirectly from such sectors, I propose to impose turnover tax on income from production of sweetened beverages at the same rate as on carbonated beverages of 3% instead of the existing rate of 0.6%. Also, I propose to collect turnover tax from any trust.

**Madam Speaker**

260. I propose the following to increase tax equity:

- a) Exemption of any assets acquired by inheritance, bequest, or any irrevocable trust;

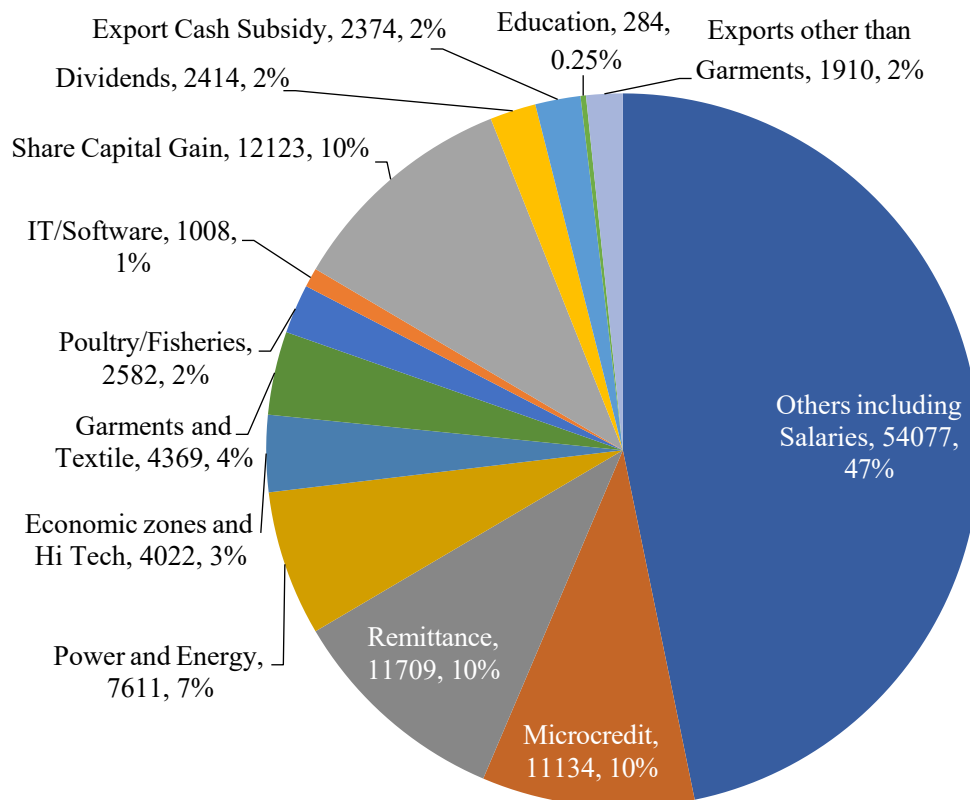
- b) Exemption of any donation or donations received by any person authorized by the NGO Affairs Bureau;
- c) Exemption from payment of advance vehicle tax to orphanages, religious places of worship;
- d) To exempt from tax the portion of income (other than donations or grants) received by a beneficiary of a charitable trust or a participant in a fund out of a portion of the income of the trust or fund on which tax has been paid by the said trust or fund;

**Madam Speaker**

261. ‘Direct Tax Expenditure’ means rebates, exemptions, tax at reduced rate and exclusion of income from computation of total taxable income. It is a type of tax subsidy. That is, if this subsidy was collected as tax, it would be added to the total tax collected and the amount of tax would increase. The total subsidy will also be included in the total subsidy along with other subsidies from the government. In line with international best practices, the Income Tax Department of the National Board of Revenue has, for the first time in Bangladesh in the last financial year, estimated the “direct tax” based on the analysis of actual data at the field level, which has been achieved entirely through the efforts of the Income Tax Department. The total estimated amount of “direct expenditure” for the financial year 2020-21 was Tk 1,25,813 crore. The “direct expenditure” for FY2021-22 is estimated at Tk 1,15,616 crore – out of which Tk 71,954 crore at the company level and Tk 43,662 crore at the natural person level. Overall, this “direct expenditure” is 2.91% of total GDP for FY2021-22, as against 3.56% for the previous FY. Taking into consideration the provisional total GDP size of 2023-24, the total amount of projected “direct expenditure” for that financial year comes to Tk 1,46,897 crore.

## Direct Tax Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021-2022

### Direct Tax Expenditure (Crore Taka)



### Madam Speaker

262. We have been providing tax exemption facilities for a long time with the aim of promoting investment and trade in the country, increasing employment and exports. A number of important sectors currently enjoy full tax exemption and many sectors pay income tax at

a reduced rate. Although tax exemptions have increased investment and employment, the tax base is shrinking to a large extent.

For tax expenditure rationalization I propose as follows:

- a) An exempted person may pay tax at the regular rate by surrendering his tax in whole or in part;
- b) Limiting the facility of Hi-Tech Parks only to Government Hi-Tech Parks and adopting the same measures in the case of Economic Zones;
- c) If a person is exempted from tax against income from any one source for a certain period, he will not be exempted from tax again against income from such source for any other period and such person will be exempted from tax even if such person is reorganized by any kind of merger, demerger and acquisition;
- d) Disallowance of depletion allowances of companies engaged in petroleum and mineral extraction;
- e) To tax any capital gain exceeding Taka.50 lakh received by a natural individual taxpayer from transfer of shares or units of a listed company or fund.

**Madam Speaker**

263. The current government is committed to ease of doing business and ensuring a tax payer and business friendly environment. In particular, to popularize the issue of return filing and payment of taxes by taxpayers, instead of increasing the time every year, I propose to bring provision of return filing in universal self-assessment system for all returns concerned tax year irrespective of natural persons, companies. Also, I propose to provide that the National Board of Revenue may extend the period for filing returns by not more than 1 month.

## **Import-Export Duties**

### **Madam Speaker**

264. Bangladesh is moving forward to become an upper-middle income country. Gradual shift from agriculture-based economy to manufacturing, improvement in different development indices stands testaments to this journey. After the successful implementation of Digital Bangladesh, transition to SMART Bangladesh through the introduction of modern information technology, enabling the working age population to grasp the benefit of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and preparing the industrial sectors to face the global competition will require continuous and sustained economic growth. To achieve this objective, it is essential to enhance revenue income on one hand, while simultaneously offering tax policy support to safeguard the domestic industry, foster diversification of export products, bolster the competitive edge of local industries, and uphold the slogan of "Made in Bangladesh". At the same time, tariff rationalization should be continued in preparation to face the challenge of LDC graduation. The prevalent culture of enjoying duty exemption at the individual, institutional and government level should also be done away with. In view of the above realities, to achieve the stated objectives and to finance the development activities of the country, after reviewing different proposals including the ones to increase revenue income, I am now presenting the import duty and taxes related proposals for 2024-25 fiscal year through you before this august House.

### **Effectivity of New Customs Act, 2023:**

### **Madam Speaker**

265. With a view to create more business-friendly environment in the areas of international trade the customs act 2023 has been enacted in

Bangla by replacing the old act (The Customs Act 1969). After long consultation with relevant stakeholders, development partners and think tanks, the act has been enacted incorporating international best practices in customs procedures in the context of our realities and state of our economic development. With a view to making the act effective in fiscal year 2024-25 a gazette notification has already been published announcing its effective date from June 06, 2024.

**Madam Speaker**

266. The following factors have been taken into consideration in preparation of the budget proposal related to Customs Duty (CD), Regulatory Duty (RD), Supplementary Duty (SD) and Value Added Tax (VAT):

- Identifying the new potential sectors and continuing the policy support for the local industries for their capacity building through rationalization of existing tariff policy.
- By 2026, implementing necessary measures to address the challenges following the graduation from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and seizing the opportunities that arise thereafter.
- Doing away with the culture of tax exemptions at all levels of individuals, institutions and government.
- Support to export oriented industries and saving of foreign exchange, paving the way for domestic and foreign investment and creation of employment opportunities.
- Simplification of procedures and removing complexities in the area of customs clearance.
- Increase revenue.

**Madam Speaker**

267. I propose the existing six tier of customs duties ( 0%, 1%, 5%, 10%, 15% and 25%), mandatory 3% Regulatory Duty on almost all products subject to maximum import duty (25%) in the BCT, existing 12 tier supplementary duty rates (10%, 20%, 30%, 45%, 60 %, 100%, 150%, 200%, 250%, 300%, 350% and 500 %) to be continued in the next fiscal year 2024-25. Besides, I propose to keep the existing duty rate unchanged in case of import of essential food products, fertilizers, seeds, life-saving medicines and raw materials of some other industries.

**LDC Graduation and Tariff Rationalization:**

**Madam Speaker**

268. In the course of transition from LDC to a developing country, we need to maintain consistency with the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and consequently need to rationalize our tariff gradually. One of the conditions for tariff rationalization is to phase-out minimum value, tariff value, regulatory duties and supplementary duties which are not trade neutral currently. Besides, as a part of Bangladesh's commitment to WTO, the tariff on some of the products which have exceeded the rate mentioned in the tariff schedule submitted to WTO should be brought under bound rate. I suggest the following things to address the said issues:

269. In continuation of tariff rationalization steps taken during last financial year, I am proposing the following tariff rationalization plan for the upcoming financial year 2024-25:

- I recommend withdrawal of minimum value of products under 10 headings.

- I propose rationalization of minimum value of products under 5 headings.
- I propose to fix new minimum value for the products under 3 headings.

To implement the aforementioned decisions, I suggest to amend the notification regarding minimum value in the upcoming budget. (Annexure-B, Table-1)

270. As part of the phased withdrawal of regulatory duties and supplementary duties, certain products have been selected for reduction in the coming fiscal year. The main considerations in these selections are-

- Products which are not socially undesirable and not a luxury product,
- Imports of selected products will not put pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves,
- Products are mostly not produced in the country.
- Domestically produced products will be able to compete with similar imported products even after the duty reduction,
- Products selected for cultural or other reasons are not in great demand in our country, etc.

Considering the above issues and in line with the efforts made in the preceding financial year, I am proposing to withdraw

- Supplementary duty on 19 products and reduction of Supplementary duty on 172 products.
- Withdrawal of duties on 91 products. (Annexure-B, Table-2)

271. As per our commitment to WTO, few products have been brought under bound rate in earlier budgets. As continuation of this

initiative, I propose bringing the existing tariff of ten (10) products within the bound rate in this year's budget. (Annexure-B, Table-3)

272. In view of the above circumstances and with your kind consent, I now place the sector-wise details of the proposals before this august house.

**A) Agriculture Sector:**

**Madam Speaker**

273. Agriculture remains as one of our priority sector. Therefore, it is recommended to maintain the current duty rates on the import of key inputs for the agricultural sector, particularly fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, etc. Additionally, I propose keeping the duty rates on essential food items unchanged. Furthermore, I will now present additional proposals for this sector as follows: (Annexure-B, Table-4)

274. Cashew nuts are cultivated in the hill tracts area of Bangladesh, where factories have been established to process the harvested cashew nuts. Hence, to safeguard the domestic industry, I propose implementing a 5% import duty along with a 10% regulatory duty on the import of Shelled Cashew Nuts.

275. Aseptic packaging products serve as crucial packing materials within the distribution systems of liquid milk and fruit juice industries. These packaging materials are available either in roll form or in open rectangular-shaped cartons. Nevertheless, there is a disparity in duties based on their shape, which lacks justification since both packing materials serve the same purpose. Therefore, I propose applying the same import duty rate for both types of materials and recommend imposing a 10% Customs Duty to ensure a Total Tax Incidence (TTI) of 37% for both.

**B) Health sector:**

**Madam Speaker**

276. Priority has been given to the development of the health sector like previous years, with several measures being implemented accordingly. The existing concessionary facilities for importing raw materials essential to produce medicines, medical supplies, and healthcare products have been continued. (Annexure-B, Table-5)

277. Dialysis filter and dialysis circuit are two essential components used in the dialysis of kidney patients. I propose reducing the existing import duty from 10% to 1% on the import of these two products.

278. Absence of a specific HS Code for the Spinal Needle product has created some complicity, during customs clearance. Therefore, I propose the creation of a new HS Code for this product and suggest fixing a 5% import duty (CD) for this.

279. As part of the government's ongoing policy to facilitate access to medical care, ambulances are eligible for reduced import duties. In this scenario, complications in customs assessment arise due to the absence of a fixed minimum length for imported ambulances. To resolve this issue, it is advisable to establish a minimum length for the passenger cabin area of the ambulance. As a result, I propose updating the description of ambulances in the HS code where minimum passenger cabin length will be 9 feet.

280. Additionally, I propose to incorporate several new raw materials into the notification of raw materials necessary for producing medicines utilized for cancer treatment. This adjustment aims to enhance the convenience of cancer patients undergoing treatment.

281. I propose to include several new items in the notification regarding the concessional facility for importing raw materials by Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturers.

282. I recommend adding Azithromycin to the notification concerning the import of essential raw materials utilized in pharmaceutical industries. For the past few years dengue outbreaks are often seen in the country and the situation is reaching an alarming level every year. Therefore, I propose to issue a new notification in the budget for the financial year 2024–25 to import dengue kits at concessional facilities.

283. Referral hospitals have been enjoying concessional duty rates for the importation of their medical equipment and machinery for quite long period. Our continuous effort to rationalize tax expenditure, I propose a slight reduction of concession by imposing 10% Customs Duty on the import of medical equipment and supplies by referral hospitals.

### **C) Industries:**

#### **Madam Speaker**

284. The importance of the industrial sector in creating employment and increasing domestic and foreign investment is immense. Also, in case of transition to middle income countries, it is necessary to prepare the industry in advance to deal with the possible adverse effects. As a strategy to increase investment, to maximize the utilization of productive capacity of existing industries through appropriate safeguards and multi-directional expansion of export-oriented industries, I propose the following duty-tax reduction/increase for various sub-sectors. (Annexure-B, Table-6).

### **1) Repackaging Industry:**

#### **Madam Speaker**

285. Local packers are enjoying unreasonable amount of protection as the difference in total duty on import of milk powder in packs upto 2.5 kg and import in bulk form is very high. As part of tariff rationalization, we propose to withdraw the existing 20% supplementary duty on packed powdered milk up to 2.5 kg. However, the difference in the total tax burden of the domestic industry with respect to imports will still be 21% which will not cause any hindrance to the protection of the domestic repacking industry.

286. Methyl alcohol (Methanol) is important raw material for various industries. Methanol used as raw material for industry is completely import dependent. Currently there is no incentive in place for local repacking industries as the duty applicable for import of bulk products and in retail pack are same. Therefore, to encourage domestic repackaging industry, I recommended to fix import duty at 5% in case of methanol import in bulk and 10% in other cases.

### **2) Weaving Industry:**

#### **Madam Speaker**

287. Glauber Salt has been written instead of Disodium Sulphate in the notification related to the import of raw materials for use in weaving industry which is not in line with the description of the existing First Schedule. Considering the recommendation of the ministry of textile and to remove confusion at the import stage, I propose to amend the description in the notification by inserting Disodium Sulphate instead of Glauber Salt.

**3) Polyester (Synthetic) Staple Fiber (PSF) And Pet chips manufacturing industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

288. Polyester (Synthetic) Staple Fiber (PSF) and Pet CHIPS (Textile Grade) products are regarded as widely used material for textile industry. The main raw materials used in the production of these two products are Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Mono-Ethylene Glycol (MEG). However, it is observed that the total tax incidence on the finished goods is less than its raw material. In order to remove this discrepancy and for the protection of the domestic industry, I propose to impose 1% customs duty on PTA and MEG and waive all other duties and taxes on these two raw materials.

**4) Carpet manufacturing industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

289. Carpet manufacturing industry is currently being established in the country. One of the main raw material of this industry is Polypropylene yarn. As the product is not manufactured in the country, the entire raw material needs to be imported. To support local carpet manufacturing industry in Bangladesh, I propose to reduce the import duty of Polypropylene yarn from 10% to 5%.

**5) Ferro alloy manufacturing industries:**

**Madam Speaker**

290. Ferro alloy products are currently being produced in the country. Such products are used for refining during the production of rods, bars, angles etc. Manganese is an essential raw material in the production of ferro alloy products and its import duty is 10%. As part of our

continuous effort for import substitution, I propose to reduce import duty on Manganese from 10% to 5% to support the domestic industry.

**6) LRPC Wire Manufacturing Industries:**

**Madam Speaker**

291. At present, various types of superior quality iron and non-alloy steel wire are being produced in the country, which if utilized will reduce the pressure on foreign exchange. As a result, imports can be discouraged by increasing the tariff at the import stage of such products which in turn can help further develop the domestic industry. In view of the above circumstances, I recommended to increase the import duty of LRPC Wire from 10% to 15%.

**7) Air conditioner and refrigerator manufacturing industries:**

**Madam Speaker**

292. Air conditioner manufacturing companies can import compressors at a concessionary rate. As air conditioners are not used by common people, I recommend withdrawing the subsidized rate on its import duty. Apart from this, at present compressors required for the production of refrigerators are also produced in the country. So, I propose to withdraw the concessionary rate for refrigerator compressors also.

293. As a revenue increasing measure, I propose to increase the import duty from 5% to 10% for various types of steel sheet mentioned in the related notification. I also propose to increase the import duty to 15% for the products which now enjoy 10% duty under the said notification.

294. Furthermore, with a view to earn proper revenue, I propose to

impose minimum value on the import of compressors used in refrigerators and air conditioners. (Annexure-B, Table-7). Currently a 1% import duty (CD) is applicable on the import of air conditioners with a capacity exceeding 200,000 BTU. This limit may be increased to 300,000 BTU, meaning that air conditioners with a capacity exceeding 300,000 BTU will be subject to 1% import duty (CD).

**8) Water purification equipment manufacturing industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

295. At present, household water purifiers are being produced in the country. To support the local industry, I propose to increase the import duty of the mentioned devices from 10% to 15%.

**9) Switch socket manufacturing industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

296. At present standard switch sockets are being manufactured in the country. But the local industry is facing unequal competition as the importers very often declare the value of a finished switch/socket at a price much lower than its price in international market. In order to address this situation, I propose to increase the minimum value of complete switch, complete socket and their parts.

297. I also recommend including some raw materials in the related notification. (Annexure-B, Table-8)

**10) Electric motor manufacturing industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

298. At present, electric motor manufacturing factories have been established in the country. Electric motors are used as intermediate

products in various industries. To encourage the investors in this sector, I recommend issuing a new notification for the industries in the said sector by providing them with concessional facilities on import of necessary raw materials. Also, for the proper implementation of the said notification, I propose to rationalize and make necessary amendments in the notification regarding the import of industrial raw materials and in Bangladesh Customs Tariff accordingly. (Annexure-B, Table-9)

#### **11) Local cellular phone manufacturing industry:**

##### **Madam Speaker**

299. At present, there are a good number of mobile phone or cellular phone manufacturing/ assembling companies in the country. The components used in mobile phones are constantly changing due to technological advancements. As a result, for the sake of adding new features to phones, companies need to import new types of components parts. In order to meet this requirement, I propose adding some newly invented components to the existing notification and to amend the description of some existing items.

300. Besides, I propose to amend the existing notification to solve the complications in the assessment of customs duty.

301. The existing notification regarding concessionary facilities on import of raw materials used in the manufacturing of mobile phones remains in effect till June 30, 2024. To continue the support to these industries, I propose to extend the validity of the said notification up to June 30, 2026.

**12) Motor cycle manufacturing industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

302. At present, some motorcycle manufacturing companies are assembling engines in Bangladesh. To encourage such motorcycle assembling industries, I propose to include the parts of Engine in CKD in the notification related to the motorcycle manufacturing/assembling industries. I propose to exempt customs duties in excess of 3% and exempt from the payment of Supplementary Duty (SD) and Regulatory Duty (RD) entirely at the import stage on those raw materials imported by related category of the industry under the said notification. However, 10% Customs Duty (CD) will be imposed on raw materials for motorcycles having engine capacity exceeding 250 CCs imported by relevant category of the industry. At the same time, I recommend to increase the existing import duty from 5% to 15% against the related motorcycle engine parts in Bangladesh Customs Tariff.

303. In table-1 of the same notification, coated rod & coated wire have been included which can be imported at concessionary rate. Similar products are being manufactured in Bangladesh and local industries can meet local demand, Therefore, in order to protect the local industry, I recommend to withdraw the said product from Table-1 of the notification.

**13) Local ATM and CC Camera Manufacturing Industry:**

**Madam Speaker**

304. Bangladeshi companies have started assembling Automated Teller Machine (ATM) and Closed-Circuit TV Camera (CC Camera) and a notification for importing raw materials at a concessionary benefit has been issued. As a step to make the local industry ready to face the

challenge of LDC Graduation I propose to reduce some of the benefit and recommend imposing 5% CD instead of 1% for the items in Table-1 of the related notification.

305. Besides, as the Printed PVC Sheet mentioned in the same notification is not used as a direct raw material for the production of ATM and CC cameras, I propose to delete the product from the notification. I also propose to specify the validity of the existing notification till June 30, 2026.

#### **14) Textile Industry:**

##### **Madam Speaker**

306. As per the recommendation of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) I propose to include some raw materials in Table-3 of the notification related to the import of machinery, spare parts and raw materials for textile industry.

#### **15) Generator assembly and manufacturing industry:**

##### **Madam Speaker**

307. Generator manufacturing and assembling industries can import their raw materials at 0% import duty under a notification. As a part of our tariff rationalization initiative, I propose to impose 1% import duty for products imported under the said notification.

#### **16) LED lamp and energy saving lamp manufacturing industry:**

##### **Madam Speaker**

308. LED lamp and energy saving lamp manufacturing industries can import their raw materials at 0% import duty under a notification. As

part of our tariff rationalization initiative, I propose to impose 10% import duty on the raw materials mentioned in the related notification.

309. Furthermore, some products which are included in different table of the said notification are finished or intermediate goods. Considering the spirit of the manufacturing SRO, I recommend to exclude such goods from the said notification. I also recommend to specify the period of validity of the LED notification till June 30, 2026.

**17) Other industries:**

**Madam Speaker**

310. In the current reality, the domestic airlines are gradually lagging behind in the competition with the foreign airlines due to various reasons. In order to support the growth of local aviation companies and to tap the future potential of the industry, I propose to withdraw the VAT on aircraft engine and spare parts of propellers at the import stage.

311. Chiller is used as an essential capital equipment in various industries. A total duty of 104.68% is applicable on the import of chillers which is not conducive for the related industries. I propose to waive all other taxes except Customs Duty (CD) of 5% and advance income tax for importing chiller having capacity of 50 tons or more.

312. In order to implement the Smart Bangladesh slogan envisaged by our government, we need to make laptop computer and similar products available to the tech savvy workforce. We also need to curb the fake/refurbished laptops mushrooming in the market. To achieve these objectives and to protect the buyers from counterfeit products, I propose to increase the CD from 5% to 10% and recommend waiving the 15% VAT applicable at import stage. This will reduce the total tax incidence from 31% to 20.50%.

313. There is a difference in total tax incidence (TTI) between imported ordinary kilowatt hour meters and pre-paid smart kilowatt hour meters. As they are similar products and serves the same purpose, I propose to fix import duty at 25% for both types of product. Similarly, I propose to fix import duty on pre-paid kilowatt meter parts at 15% for parity.

**Petroleum product**

**Madam Speaker**

314. Currently, synthetic lubricating oil is increasingly being used in different automobiles including hybrid cars and other modern machineries. Despite the high price in international market, customs valuation of this product has become difficult due to non existence of minimum value. To overcome this problem and to rationalize the value in line with the international market price, I propose to set the minimum value for synthetic lubricating oil, mineral lubricating oil and raw material of lubricating oil i.e., base oil. Besides, to align the value of the furnace oil with the international market price I propose to fix the minimum value for furnace oil as USD 480 per Metric Ton (MT).

**Issue, amendment and cancellation of certain notification and order**

**Amendment of notification related to import of capital machineries and equipment (SRO No. 118/2022)**

**Madam Speaker**

315. To support and expand the industrialization in this country a notification has been issued to import capital machinery and equipment at a concessional rate. However, with the advancement of industrialization, many of the equipments covered by this notification

have become obsolete or has been discontinued by the manufacturer. At the same time new technology has also been introduced globally for which it is necessary to incorporate new items as well as exclude some items from the said notification. Furthermore, I am proposing to amend the definition of VAT Compliant Industry in this notification.

**Amendment of Notification related to import of industrial raw material. (SRO No. 119/2022):**

**Madam Speaker**

316. As a step to moving away from the culture of tax exemption and enjoying concessionary benefit in every sphere of society, I propose to rationalize the duty on import of raw materials and recommend to impose 1% CD instead of 0% for raw materials import under SRO-119/2022. I also propose to exclude some products which are not actually raw materials of industry but are included in the said notification.

**Amendment of Notification regarding import of prefabricated building structures: (SRO No. 161/2016)**

**Madam Speaker**

317. Through this notification, an import duty of 5% has been imposed on various types of components used in the construction of prefabricated buildings. As many of the article can be procured locally, I propose to increase the import duty to 10%.

**Amendment of notification regarding import of CNG conversion kits, cylinders and other machinery and equipment for setting up and operating CNG/LPG filling stations (SRO No. 127/2022)**

**Madam Speaker**

318. At present, materials used for establishing or operating CNG/LPG stations can be imported at a concessionary duty of only 3%. I propose reducing this facility a bit and recommend to increase the customs duty to 5% for imports under this notification.

**Amendment of notification related to the Import of plant, equipment and Erection Materials by power generation companies, Rampal power plant and rental power companies**

319. Presently different types of power generation companies can import their plant, equipment, and erection materials totally duty free (0%). As a measure of rationalizing tax expenditure, I recommend reducing the benefit and propose to impose 5% CD for imports of such items by power generation companies. I also propose to keep the notification in force till June 30, 2028.

**Amendment of notification related to the import for industries under BEZA at a concessionary rate total exemption:**

**Madam Speaker**

320. Industries at economic zones (BEZA) can import their capital machineries and some of their construction materials at a concessionary rate of 0%. Even developers of BEZA enjoys the same benefit and can import their materials necessary for development at 0% duty.

321. As a measure of rationalizing tax expenditure, I recommend reducing the benefit and propose to impose 1% CD for imports under

the related notifications.

322. Furthermore, no duties and tax is levied on vehicles imported by establishments within economic zones. In this instance, I propose that only import duty (CD) be exempted, while all other duties and taxes will be applicable.

**Amendment of notifications related to the import by industries within High-Tech Park at a concessionary rate/total exemption:**

**Madam Speaker**

323. Industries located at High-tech Park can import their capital machineries and some of their construction materials at a concessionary rate of 0%. Even developers of High-tech park enjoys the same benefit and can import their materials at 0% duty which are necessary for the development of High-Tech Park.

324. As a measure of rationalizing tax expenditure, I recommend reducing the benefit and propose to impose 1% CD for import of capital machinery and construction material by the industries in High-tech Park and 5% CD for developers of High-Tech Park for their import under related notification.

325. Furthermore, no duties and tax is levied on vehicles imported by establishments within High-Tech Park. In this instance, I propose that only customs duty (CD) be exempted, while all other duties and taxes will be applicable.

**Amendment related to exemption of all types of duties and taxes on import of vehicles by the honourable members of parliament**

**Madam Speaker**

326. Presently exemption of all types Customs duties and taxes exists on import of one Car/Jeep/Microbus by the honourable Members of the Parliament. We are encouraging everyone to pay tax and to come out of the culture regarding tax exemption. A noble example will be set if the public representatives amend this privilege and lead everyone to come out of tax exemption culture. Amendment in the relevant order can be made to achieve this goal. I am requesting the concerned honourable minister to make necessary amendment in “The Members of Parliament (Remuneration & Allowances) order, 1973” accordingly.

**Validity of the notifications (SROs) related to import of capital machinery, raw materials and other similar concessionary benefit related SROs:**

**Madam Speaker**

327. In many cases there is no date of validity in Customs notifications, to address this uncertainty, I propose that existing notifications be repealed and replaced to the extent possible with the length of time for which it will be in force.

**Modifying the current Passenger Baggage Rules and introducing new baggage Rule:**

**Madam Speaker**

328. There are many incidences that passengers from Middle Eastern countries attempt to evade customs duties by concealing roughly designed raw gold (24 carat) as gold jewelry. To combat this issue effectively, I recommend the incorporation of a befitting definition of gold ornaments/jewelry in section 2 of the baggage rule 2023.

329. Presently passengers can get their unaccompanied baggage released subject to the provision of section 3 (4) of the existing baggage rule. For the sake of parity in trade, I propose to replace this provision which will allow clearance of unaccompanied baggage after payment of duties and taxes.

330. Under the existing baggage rule, subject to the provision of section 3(5), a passenger can bring two mobile phones without payment of duties and taxes. I propose amending the rules by allowing two used mobile phones without payment of duties and taxes and one new mobile phone with payment of all applicable duties and taxes.

**Amendment of the Customs Act, 2023:**

**Madam Speaker**

331. With a view to implementing the Customs Act 2023 from today, June 6, 2024 AD, a comprehensive review of all operational matters and incidental provisions related to the said act has been conducted. The assessment indicates that the desired benefits envisioned by the Act can be achieved through its effective implementation. However, it is evident that certain amendments and additions are necessary in various sections of the act for smooth operation and to enhance its efficacy. Furthermore, the enactment of the new Bangla Act has introduced several new issues that require attention. To ensure the proper implementation of the Customs Act, 2023, it is imperative to draft some new rules encompassing all required amendments and additions. Those additions and amendments to the Act together with the summary of some of the rules necessary to implement the Act are presented to this house with your kind consent:

**1) Amendment of certain sections of the Act and addition of new provisions:**

- a) Abolishing the provision requiring publication of notifications in the official gazette regarding the appointment of officers or delegation of powers. Amendments to Sections 4 and 6 of the Customs act 2023 are proposed to effect this change.
- b) Amending sub-section (4) of section 32 concerning the calculation and realization of interest on arrears.
- c) Amending sections related to the nature of guarantees and determination of obligations to furnish guarantees. This includes amendments to sub-section (2) of section 41 and sub-section (2) of section 44.
- d) In view of practicality, amendments in section 86 of the Customs Act, 2023 has been made to facilitate amendment of goods declaration.
- e) Amending sub-section (2) of section 94 pertaining to the auction of uncleared goods.
- f) Amending Section 171 to include provisions for the imposition of penalties in accordance with rules.
- g) Amending Section 202 of the Act concerning the powers of officers holding current charge in cases of adjudication.
- h) Amendment of provisions related to the filing of appeals.
- j) Addition of provisions relating to the jurisdiction of civil courts.
- k) Amendment to section 261 of the Act to incorporate provisions to present evidential proof only upon the direction of the court.
- l) Insertion of a new section 264A after section 264 to facilitate the formation of specialized units for effective enforcement.
- m) Adding legal provisions to authorize conduct of any activity under the Act through electronic means, by amending sub-section (1) of

section 265.

**2) For effective enforcement of the Customs Act, 2023 it is essential to formulate a set of rules.** These rules will serve as guidelines for consistent application and compliance with the law. They'll cover various aspects such as tariff classification, valuation methods, rules of origin, customs clearance procedures, enforcement measures, electronic customs systems etc. Some of the important rules are as follows:

- a) Electronic Records and Electronic Payments Rules, 2024:
- b) Customs Guarantee Rules, 2024:
- c) Goods Declaration, Assessment and Re-Assessment Rules, 2024:
- d) Expedited Shipment Rules, 2024:
- e) Notification regarding tax exemption on import of raw materials for new ship building industry.
- f) Proposal regarding formulation of new rules by updating existing rules and regulations in the management of bonded warehouses.

**Amendment to the First Schedule to the Customs Act:**

**Madam Speaker**

332. With a view to simplify international trade process and to address issues related to the harmonization and classification of goods, the first schedule of the customs act 2023 as well as description, import duty, supplementary duty, value-added tax, etc. has been thoroughly examined. Besides clerical errors, inconsistencies, complexities prevailing in the existing rules, notifications and different general orders have also been identified. To address the above issues, I propose amendments, additions, deductions, or rationalizations of relevant HS codes, rates, descriptions etc. (Annexure-10)

**Madam Speaker**

333. Implementation of the proposed measures is expected to significantly impact the restructuring of the economy, accelerating economic activities, and fostering industrial development. These will also help to encourage entrepreneurship, create employment opportunities, attract investment, and foster a conducive business environment. The procurement of container scanners by the National Board of Revenue for Bangladesh Customs, along with the adoption of ASYCUDA World software at all active land customs stations and the mandatory online payment of duty, reflects NBR's efforts towards modernization and efficiency enhancement. Furthermore, the launch of the Customs Risk Management Commissionerate and the ongoing National Single Window Project, Bond automation, and Authorized Economic Operator initiatives signify the importance NBR is attaching to operational automation. These initiatives will help to expedite the clearance of goods at our ports, reduce the cost of the trade, will make us more export competitive, will help to increase the overall efficiency of revenue administration. Ultimately, these efforts align with the vision of building a Smart Bangladesh as envisioned by the Honorable Prime Minister, will help us to achieve our goal of turning Bangladesh into a developed country by 2041.

## Chapter 10

### Commitments made in the Budget for FY2023-24 and Snapshot of Implementation Progress

#### Madam Speaker

334. I am now focusing on the implementation status of some of the key commitments we made to the nation in the current budget.

- The National Pension Authority was established on July 6, 2023, to implement a universal pension scheme. Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Universal Pension Scheme on August 17, 2023. Currently, there are four schemes under this system: 'Prabash', 'Pragati', 'Surakkha' and 'Samata'.
- Four pairs of trains are now regularly operating on the Dhaka-Bhanga section of the Padma Setu Rail Link Project following its inauguration by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Additionally, since March 30, 2024, a train has been running from Bhanga to Rupdia in Jessore on an experimental basis.
- On November 4, 2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the second phase of Bangladesh's First Metrorail, MRT Line-6, extending from Agargaon to Motijheel. On average, 275,000 passengers travel by metro rail each day.
- The main bridge work on the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge over the Jamuna River has been completed with the placement of the final 49th span. The bridge is expected to be commissioned either by the end of this year or at the beginning of 2025.

- A total of 851.62 kilometers of national highways has been upgraded to four lanes or more, as part of various completed and ongoing projects managed by the Department of Roads and Highways.
- More than 200 companies have already been allocated land in 29 economic zones under the Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA), with proposed investments amounting to approximately USD 22.50 billion.
- Through the G2P Payment System, stipends are being provided to the students of all technical institutes (public and private) recognized by the Bangladesh Technical Education Board.
- On November 11, 2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the newly constructed railway from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar. Additionally, on November 1, 2023, the new railway lines from the Akhaura-Agartala Interchange Point and from Khulna to Mongla Port were jointly inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India.
- A project targeting the modernization of diagnostic imaging system in 8 medical colleges at divisional headquarters is under implementation. Besides, establishment of 100 bed cancer hospitals is underway in these medical colleges under another project.
- Construction of Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chattogram Medical Universities are underway as promised in the budget of FY2023-24.
- As part of the initiative to develop 'Smart Bangladesh' announced by the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank has issued letters of intent on October 25, 2023 in favor of two digital banks to provide technology-based banking services and information to the people.
- In the fiscal year 2023-24, the construction of 11,057 Bir Nibash was completed under the Housing Construction Scheme for heroic Freedom Fighters. Additionally, the 'Birer Kanthe Bir Gantha'

project has been initiated to record and archive the speeches of all living freedom fighters reminiscing their experience in the war of liberation.

- In FY2023-24, the old age allowance has been raised from BDT 500 to BDT 600, with the number of beneficiaries increasing from 57.01 lac to 58.01 lakh. Similarly, the allowance for the widow and husband deserted women has been increased from BDT 500 to BDT 550, and the number of beneficiaries has increased from 24.75 lakh to 25.75 lakh.
- On October 17, 2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the 12th floor Jayita Tower building. To date, a total of BDT 15,43,30,000 has been distributed to 99 women entrepreneurs.
- An allocation of Tk. 1500 crore has been made for the Employment Program for the ultra-poor, and Tk. 820 crore has already been expended. Approximately 19.34 lakh beneficiaries have been served so far. The Taka for Work (Kabita), TR, and GR (Cash) programs are in operation.
- As of February 2024, the project titled 'Further Development of Bangabandhu National Stadium', aimed at revamping the Bangabandhu National Stadium, achieved 80% progress.
- A project titled 'Canal Reclamation, Renovation, and Creating an Aesthetic Environment' to remove waterlogging in Dhaka city.
- Training sessions were conducted for 11,640 members of cooperative societies across 10 villages under the auspices of the project called 'Establishment of Bangabandhu Model Village in the Light of Bangabandhu's People-oriented Cooperative Ideas'. Additionally, loans totaling BDT 14,16,50,000 were disbursed among 2,161 beneficiaries from the revolving fund.
- The establishment of Sheikh Hasina Rural Development Academy with modern facilities in Melandah Upazila of Jamalpur District has

made 99.97% progress. Similarly, the progress of construction of Sheikh Russel Rural Development Academy in Taraganj Upazila of Rangpur District is 99.92%.

- On the occasion of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the ‘Bangabandhu Wage Earners Center’ has been established near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka to assist the workers departing for and returning from abroad. Since May 2022 to February 2024, 4101 expatriate workers have been served at this facility.
- The Family Nutrition Garden Project was launched at an estimated cost of Tk. 438.47 crore, aiming to utilize every inch of land for cultivation to counter the impact of COVID-19. As of February 2024, a total of 3,27,140 nutrient gardens have been set up under this project.
- In FY2023-24, a project titled ‘Integrated Water Resource Management Implementation Project for Tungipara-Kotalipara Upazila of Gopalganj District’ has been launched at a cost of Tk. 893.55 crore.
- At present, landowners have the convenience of paying land development tax online from anywhere in the world at any time. Upon payment, they receive instant QR code-rich returns.
- On October 7, 2023, the Hon’ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Soft Opening of Terminal 3 at Shahjalal International Airport. The project has achieved a cumulative actual progress of 94%.
- The electricity production capacity has been augmented to 30,067 MW. Besides, a total of 27 power plants are under construction, with a combined capacity of 9,144 MW.
- Production of various hardware products including laptops, chips has begun in Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City, Kaliakair, built on 371

acres of land. As of now, 82 institutions have been allotted land in the park.

- The core theme of our special program, ‘My Village, My City’, is to provide modern urban amenities to every village. Currently, over 300 services are being offered through more than 16 thousand entrepreneurs via digital centres at the village and union levels nationwide.
- On November 12, 2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Ghorashal-Palash Urea Fertilizer Factory. This factory has a production capacity of 9 lakh 24 thousand metric tons of fertilizer. Notably, it utilizes eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and modern technology-based processes.
- The project titled 'Establishment of 11 Modern Fire Service and Civil Defence Stations' was successfully completed in December 2023 by the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence.
- Work is underway to establish a third submarine cable connection through the SEA-ME-WE-6 submarine cable consortium, with an initial capacity of 13,200 Gbps. It is expected to be operational by 2024.
- In the previous fiscal year to mitigate the inflationary pressure the tax-free income limit for male taxpayers was increased from BDT 3 lakh to BDT 3.5 lakh. Additionally, the tax-free income limit for women and taxpayers aged 65 years and above was raised from BDT 3 lakh to BDT 4 lakh.
- Online automatic registration for VAT is now available. Over 5 lakh taxpayers have already got the new 13-digit VAT registration. Apart from this, to bring the entire VAT management system under full automation the integration of the Integrated VAT Administration

System (IVAS) has been completed with 12 commercial banks, including Bangladesh Bank, as well as other key stakeholders (such as E-TIN, NTMC, BIDA, BEZA, and ASYCUDA World).

- Centrally registered entities and those with annual gross sales or turnover of BDT 5 crore or more are now required to maintain their accounts using a software-based automated system. This will enhance transparency, accountability, and monitoring within the VAT regulatory framework.
- Steps have been taken to set up EFDs (Electronic Fiscal Devices) and SDCs (Sales Data Controllers) to facilitate tax payments by service providers and traders. By April 2024, EFD/SDC devices have been installed in 25,741 business entities. These machines will be gradually installed nationwide in phases.

## Chapter 11

### Conclusion

335. Awakened by the spirit of the great liberation war, the undaunting people of Bangladesh are today the brave warriors of our irresistible march towards progress. This land, hallowed by immeasurable sacrifice and selflessness, has repeatedly stood resilient against all odds with unwavering conviction leveraging the collective endeavors of the people. The budget for the FY2024-25 has been prepared with a firm commitment to sustaining this trend in the future.

336. Considering the current global political landscape and the state of the domestic macro economy, time-befitting reforms in the fiscal sector will be undertaken. These include digital transformation, expansion of the tax net, collection of non-tax revenue, and enhancement of administrative capacity to ensure adequate resource mobilization. While maintaining the budget deficit at a manageable level, reliance on external sources for deficit financing will be reduced. To control inflation, austerity measures will be maintained on a limited scale, but the scope of safety net programs for low-income individuals from the pressure of high inflation will be expanded. Alongside controlling inflation, the budget for this fiscal year has been formulated with an emphasis on ensuring necessary funding for government priority sectors such as poverty alleviation, job creation, social safety net programs, education, health, agriculture, and climate change impact mitigation, thereby prioritizing future development trajectories.

337. Emphasis has been laid on modernization and the maximum use of technology in every sector to mirror the vision of Smart Bangladesh. Equal emphasis has been given on building physical, social, and technological infrastructure suitable for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ensuring that the benefits of a smart society, smart citizens, smart government, and, above all, a smart economy are delivered to the most marginalized citizens of the country.

338. With the courage and dreams of the Father of the Nation, the visionary behind our progress towards development and the symbol of our freedom, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, his worthy successor, is steadily realising the dream of building the Golden Bengal. Under her farsighted guidance, our beloved country is progressing towards its desired destination with firm conviction and clear goals.

339. Today, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Bangladesh stands proudly on the world stage. We are recognized and highly acclaimed as a nation that is maintaining the momentum of development even amidst various adversities. With the bold and dynamic development strategy of *Desh Ratna* Sheikh Hasina, we are well on course to fulfil the dream of building a knowledge-based, prosperous, and smart Bangladesh by 2041. We will march ahead on this path of immense potential, InshaAllah.

Joy Bangla  
Joy Bangabandhu  
Joy Sheikh Hasina  
May Bangladesh live forever.

## Annexure- A

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**Table 1: State of Socio-economic Progress**

Year	Life Expectancy (Year)	Population Growth Rate (%)	Poverty Rate (%)	Extreme Poverty Rate (%)	Literacy Rate (%)	Infant Mortality Rate (below 1-year, per thousand live birth)
2006	66.50	1.41	38.40	24.20	52.50	45.00
2007	66.60	1.40	36.80	22.60	56.10	43.00
2008	66.80	1.39	35.10	21.00	55.80	41.00
2009	67.20	1.36	33.40	19.30	56.70	39.00
2010	67.70	1.36	31.50	17.60	56.80	36.00
2011	69.00	1.37	29.90	16.50	55.80	35.00
2012	69.40	1.36	28.50	15.40	56.30	33.00
2013	70.40	1.37	27.20	14.60	57.20	31.00
2014	70.70	1.37	26.00	13.80	58.60	30.00
2015	70.90	1.37	24.80	12.90	63.60	29.00
2016	71.60	1.37*	24.30	12.90	71.00	28.00
2017	72.00	1.37*	23.1*	12.1*	72.30	24.00
2018	72.30	1.37*	21.8*	11.3*	73.20	22.00
2019	72.60	1.22	20.5*	10.5*	74.40	21.00
2020	72.80	1.33	-	-	75.20	21.00
2021	72.30	1.18	-	-	76.40	22.00
2022	72.40	0.98	18.70	5.60	76.80	24.00
2023	72.30	0.69	-	-	77.90	27.00
	Source	[SVRS]	[SVRS]	[HIES 2022]	[HIES 2022]	[SVRS]

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), \*Estimate by BBS

**Table 2: Progress in the Past Decade**

Fiscal Year	GDP Growth (%)	Investment (as % of GDP)			Per Capita Income (US\$)	Power Generation Capacity (Megawatt)	Food Grain Production (Lakh Metric Ton)	Average Yearly Inflation
		Public	Private	Total				
2011-12	7.26	5.01	19.55	24.56	1,130	8,716	368.8	8.7
2012-13	6.61	5.71	18.70	24.41	1,264	9,151	372.7	6.8
2013-14	7.03	5.61	18.86	24.46	1,429	10,416	381.7	7.4
2014-15	7.55	5.71	18.49	24.20	1,622	11,534	384.2	6.4
2015-16	7.11	6.54	23.70	30.24	1,814	14,429	388.2	5.9
2016-17	6.59	7.29	23.66	30.95	1,962	15,379	386.3	5.4
2017-18	7.32	6.88	24.94	31.82	2,132	18,753	406.64	5.8
2018-19	7.88	6.96	25.25	32.21	2,303	22,051	409.96	5.5
2019-20	3.45	7.29	24.02	31.31	2,424	23,548	416.47	5.7
2020-21	6.94	7.32	23.70	31.02	2,694	25,227	443.56*	5.6
2021-22	7.10	7.53	24.52	32.05	2,793	25,566	451.05*	6.15
2022-23	5.78	6.77	24.18	30.95	2,749	28,134	466.87*	9.02
2023-24	5.82*	7.47*	23.51*	30.98*	2,784*	30,277		8.0**

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Power Division and Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, \* Provisional \*\* Estimate

**Table 3: Supplementary Budget for 2023-24**

(Crore Tk.)

Sector	Budget 2023-24	Revised Budget 2023-24	Actual 2023-24 up to March
<b>Total Tax Revenue</b>	500,000	478,000	286,357
	(10.0)	(9.5)	(5.7)
NBR Tax	430,000	410,000	249,407
Non-NBR Tax	20,000	19,000	6,084
Non Tax Receipt	50,000	49,000	30,866
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	761,785	714,418	330,933
	(15.2)	(14.2)	(6.6)
Operating Recurrent Expenditure	436,247	434,057	243,250
	(8.7)	(8.6)	(4.8)
Development Expenditure	277,582	260,007	82,034
	(5.5)	(5.2)	(1.6)
In which, Annual Development Programme	263,000	245,000	77,279
	(5.3)	(4.9)	(1.5)
Other Expenditure	47,956	20,354	5,649
	(1.0)	(0.4)	(0.1)
<b>Budget Deficit</b>	-261,785	-236,418	-44,576
	(-5.2)	(-4.7)	(-0.9)
<b>Financing</b>			
External Source	106,390	79,793	27,559
	(2.1)	(1.6)	(0.5)
Domestic Source	155,395	156,625	17,152
	(3.1)	(3.1)	(0.3)
In which, Banking Source	132,395	155,935	97,278
	(2.6)	(3.1)	(1.9)
<b>GDP</b>	5,006,782 <sup>a</sup>	5,048,027 <sup>b</sup>	5,048,027 <sup>b</sup>

Source: Finance Division; Figures in parenthesis indicate percent of GDP; a= Projected Nominal GDP at the time of budget preparation; b= Provisional estimate of nominal GDP

**Table 4: Proposed Budget Structure for FY2024-25**

(Crore Tk.)

Sector	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
Total tax Revenue	541000	478001	500000	366658
	(9.7)	(9.5)	(10.0)	(8.3)
In which,				
NBR Tax	480000	410001	430000	319731
Non- NBR Tax	15000	19000	20000	7994
Non Tax Receipt	46000	49000	50000	38933
Total Expenditure	797000	714418	761785	573857
	(14.2)	(14.2)	(15.2)	(12.9)
(a) Non-Development Revenue Expenditure	468983	434057	436247	357098
	(8.4)	(8.6)	(8.7)	(8.0)
(b) Development Expenditure	281453	260007	277582	205158
	(5.0)	(5.2)	(5.5)	(4.6)
In which,				
Annual Development Programme	265000	245000	263000	191927
	(4.7)	(4.9)	(5.3)	(4.3)
(c) Other Expenditure	46564	20354	47956	11601
	(0.8)	(0.4)	(1.0)	(0.3)
Financing	-256,000	-236,417	-261,785	-207,199
	(-4.6)	(-4.7)	(-5.2)	(-4.7)
Financing				
(a) External source (including Grants)	95100	79793	106390	81908
	(1.7)	(1.6)	(2.1)	(1.8)
(b) Domestic source	160900	156625	155395	124361
	(2.9)	(3.1)	(3.1)	(2.8)
In which, Banking source	137500	155935	132395	118025
	(2.5)	(3.1)	(2.6)	(2.7)
GDP	5597414 <sup>a</sup>	5048027 <sup>b</sup>	5006782 <sup>a</sup>	4439273

Source: Finance Division; Figures in parenthesis indicate percent of GDP; a= Projected Nominal GDP at the time of budget preparation; b= Provisional estimate of nominal GDP

**Table 5: Annual Development Programme (Sectoral Allocation)**

(Crore Tk.)

Ministry/Division	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2019-20
<b>(a) Human Resource</b>							
1. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	16,136	8,121	12,018	6,250	7,038	8,746	6,299
	(6.1)	(3.3)	(4.6)	(3.3)	(3.8)	(5.4)	(4.0)
2. Health Services Division	13,741	9,345	12,209	6,660	10,127	6,429	5,443
	(5.2)	(3.8)	(4.6)	(3.5)	(5.4)	(4.0)	(3.5)
3. Secondary and Higher Education Division	11,388	5,502	14,086	5,552	6,509	7,788	6,050
	(4.3)	(2.2)	(5.4)	(2.9)	(3.5)	(4.9)	(3.9)
4. Others	38,733	29,944	32,595	28,087	27,500	19,519	20,464
	(14.6)	(12.2)	(12.4)	(14.6)	(14.7)	(12.2)	(13.1)
Sub Total	79,998	52,912	70,908	46,549	51,174	42,482	38,256
	(30.2)	(21.6)	(27.0)	(24.3)	(27.4)	(26.5)	(24.6)
<b>(b) Agriculture and Rural Development</b>							
5. Local Government Division	38,808	42,701	40,504	33,526	29,259	27,870	25,601
	(14.6)	(17.4)	(15.4)	(17.5)	(15.7)	(17.4)	(16.4)
6. Ministry of Water Resources	8,687	12,193	7,794	8,696	7,358	6,058	4,942
	(3.3)	(5.0)	(3.0)	(4.5)	(3.9)	(3.8)	(3.2)
7. Ministry of Agriculture	6,380	4,528	4,297	3,376	3,061	2,235	1,620
	(2.4)	(1.8)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.6)	(1.4)	(1.0)
8. Others	6,079	5,229	5,523	3,807	4,012	4,518	3,426
	(2.3)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(2.8)	(2.2)
Sub Total	59,954	64,651	58,118	49,405	43,690	40,681	35,589
	(22.6)	(26.4)	(22.1)	(25.7)	(23.4)	(25.3)	(22.9)
<b>(c) Energy Infrastructure</b>							
9. Power Division	29,177	27,127	33,775	25,253	21,199	21,376	23,147
	(11.0)	(11.1)	(12.8)	(13.2)	(11.4)	(13.3)	(14.9)
10. Energy and Mineral Resources Division	998	1,063	911	1,721	1,439	1,405	2,124
	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.4)

Ministry/Division	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2019-20
Sub Total	30,175	28,190	34,686	26,974	22,638	22,781	25,271
	(11.4)	(11.5)	(13.2)	(14.1)	(12.1)	(14.2)	(16.2)
<b>(d) Communication Infrastructure</b>							
11. Ministry of Railway	13,726	13,118	14,960	11,375	11,458	9,063	11,637
	(5.2)	(5.4)	(5.7)	(5.9)	(6.1)	(5.6)	(7.5)
12. Road Transport and Highways Division	32,042	27,803	34,063	26,217	26,257	22,436	20,209
	(12.1)	(11.3)	(13.0)	(13.7)	(14.1)	(14.0)	(13.0)
13. Bridges Division	7,309	7,921	9,064	6,944	5,564	3,940	6,682
	(2.8)	(3.2)	(3.4)	(3.6)	(3.0)	(2.5)	(4.3)
14. Others	16,005	12,857	16,016	8,578	7,691	5,934	5,837
	(6.0)	(5.2)	(6.1)	(4.5)	(4.1)	(3.7)	(3.7)
Sub Total	69,082	61,699	74,103	53,114	50,970	41,373	44,365
	(26.1)	(25.2)	(28.2)	(27.7)	(27.3)	(25.8)	(28.5)
Total	239,209	207,452	237,815	176,042	168,472	147,317	143,481
	(90.3)	(84.7)	(90.4)	(91.7)	(90.3)	(91.7)	(92.1)
15. Others	25,791	37,548	25,185	15,886	18,028	13,259	12,261
	(9.7)	(15.3)	(9.6)	(8.3)	(9.7)	(8.3)	(7.9)
<b>Total ADP</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>245,000</b>	<b>263,000</b>	<b>191,928</b>	<b>186,500</b>	<b>160,576</b>	<b>155,742</b>

Source: Finance Division; Figures in parenthesis indicate percent of total ADP allocation.

**Table 6: Sectoral Allocation in Budget**

(Crore Tk.)

Ministry/ Division	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2019-20
<b>(a) Social Infrastructure</b>	<b>206569</b>	<b>169044</b>	<b>191908</b>	<b>145620</b>	<b>142566</b>	<b>126558</b>	<b>114284</b>
	<b>25.92</b>	<b>23.66</b>	<b>25.19</b>	<b>25.38</b>	<b>27.43</b>	<b>27.47</b>	<b>27.02</b>
<b>Human Resource</b>							
1. Secondary and Higher Education Division	44109	34132	42838	30496	28970	29614	25869
	5.53	4.78	5.62	5.31	5.57	6.43	6.12
2. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	38820	30481	34722	23815	23440	23210	20461
	4.87	4.27	4.56	4.15	4.51	5.04	4.84
3. Health Services division	30125	23531	29431	17663	20582	17184	13923
	3.78	3.29	3.86	3.08	3.96	3.73	3.29
4. Others	75874	63841	68783	57722	55621	44669	42127
	9.52	8.94	9.03	10.06	10.70	9.69	9.96
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>188928</b>	<b>151985</b>	<b>175774</b>	<b>129696</b>	<b>128613</b>	<b>114677</b>	<b>102380</b>
	<b>23.70</b>	<b>21.27</b>	<b>23.07</b>	<b>22.60</b>	<b>24.74</b>	<b>24.89</b>	<b>24.20</b>
<b>Food and Social Safety</b>							
5. Ministry of Food	6638	6471	6016	5014	5309	3894	4120
	0.83	0.91	0.79	0.87	1.02	0.85	0.97
6. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	11003	10588	10118	10910	8644	7987	7784
	1.38	1.48	1.33	1.90	1.66	1.73	1.84
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>17641</b>	<b>17059</b>	<b>16134</b>	<b>15924</b>	<b>13953</b>	<b>11881</b>	<b>11904</b>
	<b>2.21</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>2.81</b>
<b>(b) Physical Infrastructure</b>	<b>216111</b>	<b>218303</b>	<b>224108</b>	<b>189832</b>	<b>163724</b>	<b>141433</b>	<b>146957</b>
	<b>27.12</b>	<b>30.56</b>	<b>29.42</b>	<b>33.08</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>30.69</b>	<b>34.74</b>
<b>Agriculture and Rural Development</b>							
7. Ministry of Agriculture	27214	33275	25118	32537	21334	12926	11533
	3.41	4.66	3.30	5.67	4.10	2.81	2.73
8. Ministry of Water Resources	11194	14604	10244	10889	9400	7818	6603
	1.40	2.04	1.34	1.90	1.81	1.70	1.56
9. Local Government Division	45206	48843	46704	38606	33910	32210	29450
	5.67	6.84	6.13	6.73	6.52	6.99	6.96
10. Others	11669	10535	10975	8070	8109	8287	6870
	1.46	1.47	1.44	1.41	1.56	1.80	1.62
<b>Sub-Total :</b>	<b>95283</b>	<b>107257</b>	<b>93041</b>	<b>90102</b>	<b>72753</b>	<b>61241</b>	<b>54456</b>

Ministry/ Division	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2019-20
	11.96	15.01	12.21	15.70	14.00	13.29	12.87
Power and Energy	30317	28318	34819	27065	22738	22865	33132
	3.80	3.96	4.57	4.72	4.37	4.96	7.83
Communication Infrastructure							
11. Road Transport and Highways Division	38143	33365	39710	30920	30011	26369	23593
	4.79	4.67	5.21	5.39	5.77	5.72	5.58
12. Ministry of Railway	18072	17068	19010	14703	14800	11967	14916
	2.27	2.39	2.50	2.56	2.85	2.60	3.53
13. Bridges Division	7318	7929	9073	6947	5571	3943	6684
	0.92	1.11	1.19	1.21	1.07	0.86	1.58
14. Others	16965	14194	17398	9841	8510	6654	6585
	2.13	1.99	2.28	1.71	1.64	1.44	1.56
Sub-Total :	80498	72556	85191	62411	58892	48933	51778
	10.10	10.16	11.18	10.88	11.33	10.62	12.24
15. Other Sector	10013	10172	11057	10254	9341	8394	7591
	1.26	1.42	1.45	1.79	1.80	1.82	1.79
(c) General Services	168701	149876	162570	93371	103584	86983	74475
	21.17	20.98	21.34	16.27	19.93	18.88	17.61
Public Order and Safety	33520	30959	32267	25792	26271	24415	23449
	4.21	4.33	4.24	4.49	5.05	5.30	5.54
16. Others	135181	118917	130303	67579	77313	62568	51026
	16.96	16.65	17.10	11.78	14.87	13.58	12.06
Total :	591,381	537,223	578,586	428,823	409,874	354,974	335,716
	74.2	75.2	76.0	74.7	78.9	77.0	79.4
(d) Interest Payments	113500	105300	94376	92107	77823	70464	58322
	14.24	14.74	12.39	16.05	14.97	15.29	13.79
(e) PPP Subsidy and Liability	83543	70712	79901	54091	34786	30500	25404
	10.48	9.90	10.49	9.43	6.69	6.62	6.01
(f) Net Lending and Other Expenditure	8576	1183	8922	-1165	-2670	4837	3530
	1.08	0.17	1.17	-0.20	-0.51	1.05	0.83
Total Budget	797000	714418	761785	573856	519814	460774	422976

Source: Finance Division() indicates % of total budget

**Table 7: Ministry/Division-wise Budget Allocation**

(Crore Tk.)

Ministry/Division	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24
President's Office	33	29	32
National Parliament	347	325	338
Prime Minister's Office	4,600	4,288	4,452
Cabinet Division	122	94	111
Supreme Court	248	236	237
Election Commission Secretariat	1,230	4,769	2,406
Ministry of Public Administration	5,377	5,160	4,567
Bangladesh Public Service Commission	166	142	131
Finance Division	248,205	200,884	231,212
Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh	290	306	298
Internal Resources Division	3,217	2,789	3,496
Financial Institutions Division	3,418	3,444	2,949
Economic Relations Division	21,308	16,564	13,141
Planning Division	6,492	17,532	4,883
Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division	195	252	184
Statistics and Informatics Division	662	568	415
Ministry of Commerce	932	412	594
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,726	1,588	1,657
Ministry of Defense	42,315	38,174	42,095
Armed Forces Division	46	36	45
Law and Justice Division	2,022	1,717	1,943
Public Security Division	26,877	25,123	25,695
Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division	45	43	43
Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	38,819	30,482	34,722
Secondary and Higher Education Division	44,108	34,131	42,839
Ministry of Science and Technology	13,573	12,033	13,607
Health Service Division	30,125	23,532	29,430
Information and Communication Technology Division	2,872	2,383	2,368
Ministry of Social Welfare	12,869	11,552	12,217
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	5,222	4,715	4,755
Ministry of Labour and Employment	463	373	347
Ministry of Housing and Public Works	6,929	7,025	7,428
Ministry of Information	1,108	1,068	1,050
Ministry of Cultural Affairs	779	764	699
Ministry of Religious Affairs	2,602	2,571	2,509
Ministry of Youth and Sports	2,212	1,517	1,303
Local Government Division	45,206	48,843	46,704

Ministry/Division	Budget 2024-25	Revised 2023-24	Budget 2023-24
Rural Government and Co-operatives Division	1,346	1,238	1,433
Ministry of Industries	2,510	2,546	3,024
Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment	1,217	707	1,018
Ministry of Textiles and Jute	574	601	606
Energy and Mineral Resources Division	1,087	1,143	994
Ministry of Agriculture	27,214	33,280	25,122
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	4,288	3,905	4,240
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	2,130	2,068	1,638
Ministry of Land	2,505	2,148	2,459
Ministry of Water Resources	11,194	14,604	10,244
Ministry of Food	6,757	5,237	6,518
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	11,003	10,588	10,118
Road Transport and Highways Division	38,143	33,365	39,710
Ministry of Railway	18,072	17,068	19,010
Ministry of Shipping	11,270	7,844	10,801
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism	5,695	6,350	6,597
Posts and Telecommunications Division	2,420	2,686	2,434
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	1,400	1,172	1,205
Power Division	29,230	27,175	33,825
Ministry of Liberation War Affairs	7,474	7,228	7,243
Anti Corruption Commission	191	154	185
Bridges Division	7,318	7,929	9,073
Technical and Madrasha Education Division	11,783	9,984	10,602
Security Services Division	4,137	3,683	4,163
Health Education and Family Welfare Division	11,282	6,251	8,621
<b>Total</b>	<b>797,000</b>	<b>714,418</b>	<b>761,785</b>

Source: Finance Division

## Annexure-B

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**Table-1**

**LDC Graduation and Tariff Rationalization measures:  
List of 10 HS headings where Minimum Value has been withdrawn:**

Sl No	Heading	HS Code	Description of Goods	Unit	Minimum Value USD/Unit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	06.02	0602.90.10	Mushroom	KG	2.00
2	08.13	0813.40.90	Dry Fruits	KG	0.80
3	09.01	All HS Code	Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion.	KG	4.50
4	09.02	0902.10.00	Green tea (not fermented) in immediate packing of a content not exceeding 3 Kg.	KG	10.00
		0902.20.00	Other green tea in bulk (not fermented)	KG	6.00
		0902.30.00	Black tea (Fermented) and partly fermented tea, in immediate packing of a content not exceeding 3kg	KG	3.00
		0902.40.00	Other black tea (fermented) and other partly fermented.	KG	2.50
5	44.08	4408.39.00	Natural wood board	KG	0.80
6	44.11	4411.14.00	MDF Board	KG	0.41
		4411.93.00	Laminated Veneer MDF Board (VLM)	KG	0.45
7	44.12	4412.99.00	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood, nes	KG	0.45
8	68.08	6808.00.00	Gypsum board	KG	0.70
9	68.09	All HS Code	Board, sheets, panels tiles & similar articles, not ornamented:	KG	0.50
10	73.17	7317.00.00	Nails, tacks, drawing pins, corrugated nails, staples (other than those of heading 83.05) and similar articles, of iron or steel, whether or not with heads of other materials, but excluding such articles with heads of copper.	KG	1.50

**LDC Graduation and Tariff Rationalization measures:  
List of 5 HS headings where Minimum Value has been rationalized.**

Sl No	Heading	HS Code	Description of Goods	Unit	Existing Value USD /Unit	Existing Value USD /Unit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	27.10	2710.19.11	Furnace Oil	MT	265	480
		2710.19.21	Base oil imported in bulk by VAT registered petroleum products processing or blending industries	MT	700	1200
		2710.19.31	Lubricating oils that is oil such as is not ordinarily used for any other purpose than lubrication, excluding, any mineral oil which has its flashing point below 220°F by Abel's close test	MT	2000	3000
2	52.08	5208.52.00	Printed Cotton fabrics Plain weave, weighing more than 100 g/m <sup>2</sup>	kg	3.00	4.00
		5208.59.00	Printed cotton fabrics, Other	kg	3.00	4.00
3	54.07	All HS Code	Polyester/synthetic fabrics	kg	3.00	4.50
4	85.36	8536.50.00	Other switches	kg	6.00	8.00
		8536.69.10	Plug/socket. etc.	kg	5.00	8.00
		8536.69.90				
5	85.38	8538.90.90	Switch socket parts	kg	4.50	6.00

**LDC Graduation and Tariff Rationalization measures**  
**List of 3 HS headings where Minimum Value has been imposed:**

Sl No	Heading	HS Code	Description of Goods	Unit	Minimum Value USD /Unit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	27.10	2710.19.33	Synthetic lubricating oil	MT	5000
2	68.05		Natural or artificial abrasive powder or grain:		
		6805.10.00	On a base of woven textile fabric only	kg	3.00
		6805.20.00	On a3 base of paper or paperboard only	kg	3.00
		6805.30.00	On a base of other materials	kg	3.00
3	84.14	8414.30.90	Compressors of a kind used in refrigerator:		
			without Inverter	u	40.00
			with Inverter technology	u	65.00
		8414.80.49	Compressors of a kind used in Air Conditioner:		
			Compressors without Inverter	u	50.00
			Compressors with Inverter technology	u	85.00

**Table-2**

**a) List of 191 HS codes where Supplementary Duty (SD) has been rationalized:**

**i) List of 19 HS codes where Supplementary Duty has been withdrawn:**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	02063010	Fresh Or Chilled Edible Swine Offal, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
2	02063090	Fresh Or Chilled Edible Swine Offal, Nes
3	02064110	Frozen Swine Livers, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
4	02064190	Frozen Swine Livers, Nes

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
5	02064910	Frozen Edible Swine Offal(Excl. Livers), Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
6	02064990	Frozen Edible Swine Offal, Excl. Livers, Nes
7	02071110	Fresh/Chilled Meat&Edible Offal Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
8	02071190	Fresh Or Chilled Meat&Edible Offal Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Nes
9	02071210	Frozen Meat&Edible Offal Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
10	02071290	Frozen Meat & Edible Offals Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Nes
11	02071310	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts And Offal Of Meat Fowls, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
12	02071390	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts And Offal Of Chickens, Nes
13	02071490	Frozen Cuts And Offal Meat Of Fowls, Nes
14	62113200	Men's or boys' garments of cotton, nes
15	62113300	Men's or boys' garments of man-made fibres, nes
16	62113900	Men's or boys' garments of other textiles, nes
17	62114200	Women's or girls' garments of cotton, nes
18	62114300	Women's or girls' garments of man-made fibres, nes
19	62114900	Women's or girls' garments of other textiles, nes

ii) List of 172 HS codes where Supplementary Duty has been reduced:

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	61012000	Men'S Or Boys' Over/Car Coats, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
2	61013000	Men'S Or Boys'Over/Car Coats, Etc, Of Man-Made Fibres,Knitted Or Crocheted
3	61019000	Men'S Or Boys' Over/Car Coats, Etc, Of Other Textiles,Knitted Or Crocheted
4	61021000	Woman'S Or Girls' Over/Car Coats,Etc, Of Wool..., Knitted Or Crocheted
5	61022000	Woman'S Or Girls' Over/Car Coats, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
6	61023000	Woman'S Or Girls' Over/Car Coats,Etc,Of Man-Made Fibres,Knitted/Crocheted
7	61029000	Woman'S Or Girls' Over/Car Coats,Etc,Of Other Textiles,Knitted/Crocheted

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
8	61031000	Men's or boys' Suits, Excl. Sports out fit for sports shooting
9	61032200	Men'S Or Boys' Ensembles Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
10	61032300	Men'S Or Boys' Ensembles Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
11	61033100	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets And Blazers Of Wool..., Knitted Or Crocheted
12	61033200	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets And Blazers Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
13	61033300	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets... Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
14	61033900	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets... Of Other Textiles, Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
15	61034100	Men'S Or Boys' Trousers, Etc, Of Wool..., Knitted Or Crocheted
16	61034200	Men'S Or Boys' Trousers, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
17	61034300	Men'S Or Boys' Trousers, Etc, Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
18	61034900	Men'S Or Boys' Trousers, Etc, Of Other Textiles, Knitted Or Crocheted
19	61041300	Women's or girls' suits of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted
20	61041900	Women's or girls' suits of other textiles, knitted or .. Of other textile materials nes,
21	61042200	Women'S Or Girls' Ensembles, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
22	61042300	Women'S Or Girls' Ensembles, Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
23	61042900	Women'S Or Girls' Ensembles, Of Other Textiles, Knitted Or Crocheted
24	61043100	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets, Of Wool..., Knitted Or Crocheted
25	61043200	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
26	61043300	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets, Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
27	61043900	Woman'S Or Girls' Jackets, Of Other Textiles, Knitted Or Crocheted
28	61044100	Dresses Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair, Knitted Or Crocheted
29	61044200	Dresses Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
30	61044300	Dresses Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
31	61044400	Dresses Of Artificial Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
32	61044900	Dresses Of Other Textile Material, Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
33	61045100	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Wool Or Fine Hair, Knitted Or Crocheted
34	61045200	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
35	61045300	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
36	61045900	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Other Textiles, Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
37	61046100	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Etc, Of Wool..., Knitted Or Crocheted
38	61046200	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
39	61046300	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Etc, Of Synthetic, Knitted Or Crocheted
40	61046900	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Etc, Of Other Textile, Knitted Or Crocheted
41	61051000	Men'S Or Boys' Shirts Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
42	61052000	Men'S Or Boys' Shirts Of Man-Made Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
43	61061000	Women'S Or Girls' Blouses, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
44	61062000	Women'S Or Girls' Blouses, Etc, Of Man-Made Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
45	61069000	Women'S Or Girls' Blouses Etc. Of Other Textiles Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
46	61071100	Men'S Or Boys' Underpants And Briefs Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
47	61071200	Men'S Or Boys' Underpants, Etc, Of Man-Made Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
48	61072100	Men'S Or Boys' Night Shirt Pyjamas Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
49	61072200	Men'S Or Boys' Night Shirt Pyjamas Of Man-Madefibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
50	61072900	Men'S Or Boys'Night Shirt Pyjamas Of Other Textiles,Nes,Knitted Or Croched
51	61079100	Men'S Or Boys' Dressing Gowns, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
52	61079900	Men'S Or Boys' Dressing Gowns, Of Other Textiles,Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
53	61081100	Women'S Or Girls' Slips, Etc, Of Man-Made Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
54	61081900	Women'S Or Girls' Slips, Etc, Of Other Textiles,Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
55	61082100	Women'S Or Girls' Briefs And Panties Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
56	61082200	Women'S Or Girls' Briefs, Etc, Of Man-Made Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
57	61082900	Women'S Or Girls' Briefs, Etc, Of Other Textiles,Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
58	61083100	Women'S Or Girls' Night Dresses, Pyjama Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Croched
59	61083200	Women'S Or Girls' Pyjamas,Night Dresses Of Man-Made Fibres,Knitted/Croched

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
60	61083900	Women'S Or Girls' Night Dresses & Pyjamas Of Other Tex.,Knitted Or Croched
61	61089100	Women'S Or Girls'Negliges Dressing Gowns.,Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
62	61089200	Women'S Or Girls'Negliges Dressing Gowns Of Man-Made Fibre,Knitted/Croch.
63	61089900	Women'S/Girls' Negliges Dressing Gowns.. Of Other Tex.,Nes,Knitted/Croche.
64	61091000	T-Shirts, Singlets And Other Vests, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
65	61099000	T-Shirts, Singlets, Etc, Of Other Textiles, Nes, Knitted Or Crocheted
66	61101100	OF WOOL OR FINE ANIMAL HAIR. OF WOOL
67	61101200	OF KASHMIR(CASHMERE)GOATS
68	61101900	OF WOOL OR FINE ANIMAL HAIR,NES
69	61102000	JERSEYS, PULLOVERS, CARDIGANS, WAISTCOATS & SIMILAR ART., KNITTED OR CROCHETED OF COT
70	61103000	JERSEYS,PULLOVERS,CARDIGANS,WAISTCOATS., KNITTED OR CROCHETED OF MAN-MADE FIBRE
71	61112000	Babies' Garments, Etc, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
72	61113000	Babies' Garments, Etc, Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
73	61119000	Babies' Garments, Etc,Of Other Textiles Materials,Nes Knitted Or Crocheted
74	61130000	GARMENTS, MADE UP OF KNITTED OR CROCHETED FABRICS OF HEADING 5903,5906 OR 5907
75	61142000	Garments Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted, Nes
76	61143000	Garments Of Man-Made Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted, Nes
77	61149000	Garments Of Other Textiles, Knitted Or Crocheted, Nes
78	61151000	Graduated compression hosiery (for example, stockings for varicose veins)
79	61152100	Other panty hose and tights Of synthetic fibres, measuring per single yarn les
80	61152200	Other panty hose and tights Of synthetic fibres measuring per single yarn 67 d
81	61152900	Other panty hose and tights Of other textile materials
82	61153000	Othr panty hose and tights Other women's fulllength or kn. hosiery meas... <67
83	61159400	Panty hose,tights,stockings,sock..., inclu.grad.Comp.hos.Of wool/fine animal h

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
84	61159500	Panty hose,tights,stockings,sock..., inclu.grad.Comp.hos.Of Cotton, NES
85	61159600	Panty hose,tights,stockings,sock..., inclu.grad.Comp.hos.Of synthetic fibres
86	61161000	IMPREGNATED, COATED OR COVERED WITH PLASTICS OR RUBBER
87	61169100	Gloves, Mittens And Mitts, Of Wool..., Knitted Or Crocheted
88	61169200	Gloves, Mittens And Mitts, Of Cotton, Knitted Or Crocheted
89	61169300	Gloves, Mittens And Mitts, Of Synthetic Fibres, Knitted Or Crocheted
90	61169900	Gloves, Mittens And Mitts, Of Other Textiles, Knitted Or Crocheted
91	61171000	SHAWLS, SCARVES, MUFFLERS, MANTILLAS, VEILS AND THE LIKE
92	61178010	Other Clothing Accessories, Knitted Or Crocheted, Nes, Of Cotton
93	61178090	Other clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted, nes
94	61179000	Parts Of Garments Or Clothing Accessories, Knitted Or Crocheted
95	62012000	Overcoat, raing coat, car-coat capes, cloaks and similar..Of wool or fine animal hair
96	62013000	overcoat, rain-coat, of cotton
97	62014000	Other Of man-made fibres
98	62019000	Mens or boys overcoat, car-coats, cloaks excludin Of other textile materials
99	62022000	Womens or girls overcoat, car-coad ...Of wool or fine animal hair
100	62023000	Womens or girls overcoat, car-coad capes, cloaks, anoraks ...Of cotton
101	62024000	Womens or girls overcoat, car-coad capes, cloaks, anoraks ...Of man-made fibres
102	62029000	Woent or gilrs overcoat, raincot car-coat capes,.....Of other textile materials
103	62031100	Men'S Or Boys' Suits Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair
104	62031200	Men'S Or Boys' Suits Of Synthetic Fibres
105	62031900	Men's or boys' suits of other textiles, nes
106	62032200	Men'S Or Boys' Ensembles Of Cotton
107	62032300	Men'S Or Boys' Ensembles Of Synthetic Fibres
108	62032900	Men'S Or Boys' Ensembles Of Other Textiles, Nes
109	62033100	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets And Blazers Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
110	62033200	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets And Blazers Of Cotton
111	62033300	Men'S Or Boys' Jackets And Blazers Of Synthetic Fibres
112	62034100	Men'S/Boy'S Bib&Brace Trousers,Breeches,Shorts Of Wool Or Fine Animalhar
113	62034200	Men'S Or Boys' Bib & Brace Trousers, Breeches, Shorts, Of Cotton
114	62041100	Women'S Or Girls' Suits Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair
115	62041200	Women'S Or Girls' Suits Of Cotton
116	62041300	Women'S Or Girls' Suits Of Synthetic Fibres
117	62041900	Women'S Or Girls' Suits Of Other Textiles, (Exl.Wool,Cotton,Syn.Fibre)
118	62043100	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets And Blazers Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair
119	62043200	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets And Blazers Of Cotton
120	62043300	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets And Blazers Of Synthetic Fibres
121	62043900	Women'S Or Girls' Jackets&Blazers Of Oth.Text.,(Exl.Wool,Cotton,Syn.Fibre)
122	62045100	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair
123	62045200	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Cotton
124	62045300	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Synthetic Fibres
125	62045900	Skirts And Divided Skirts Of Other Textiles, (Exl.Wool,Cotton,Syn.Fibre)
126	62046100	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Breeches, Etc, Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair
127	62046200	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Breeches, Etc, Of Cotton
128	62046300	Women'S Or Girls' Trousers, Breeches, Etc, Of Synthetic Fibres
129	62046900	Women'S/Girl'S Trousers,Breeches,Etc,Of Oth.Text.,(Exl.Wool,Cotton,Syn.Fib.
130	62052000	Men'S Or Boys' Shirts Of Cotton
131	62053000	Men'S Or Boys' Shirts Of Man-Made Fibres
132	62059000	Men'S Or Boy'S Shirts Of Other Textiles,(Exl.Wool,Cotton,Man Made Fibre)
133	62061000	Women'S Or Girl'S Blouses, Shirts/Blouses Of Silk Or Silk Waste
134	62062000	Women'S Or Girl'S Blouses, Shirts/Blouses Of Wool Or Fine Animal Hair
135	62063000	Women'S Or Girls' Blouses, Shirts/Blouses Of Cotton
136	62064000	Women'S Or Girl'S Blouses, Shirts/Blouses Of Man-Made Fibres

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
137	62069000	Women/Girl'S Blouses,Shirts/Blouses Of Oth.Tex.(Exl.Silk,Wool,Of Man M.Fib
138	62071100	Men'S Or Boys' Underpants And Briefs Of Cotton
139	62071900	Men'S Or Boys' Underpants And Briefs Of Textile Materials, (Exl. Cotton)
140	62072100	Men'S Or Boys' Nightshirts And Pyjamas Of Cotton
141	62072200	Men'S Or Boys' Nightshirts And Pyjamas Of Man-Made Fibres
142	62072900	Men'S Or Boy'S Nightshirts & Pyjamas Of Tex.Mate.(Exl.Cotton,Man Made Fib.
143	62079100	Men'S Or Boys' Singlets,Vests Dressing Gowns, Etc, Of Cotton
144	62079900	Mens/Boy'S Singlets,Vests Dressing Gowns,Etc,Of Oth.Tex.(Exl.Cot.Man M.Fib
145	62081100	Slips And Petticoats Of Man-Made Fibres
146	62081900	Slips And Petticoats Of Other Textiles, (Exl. Man Made Fibre)
147	62082100	Women'S Or Girls' Nightdresses And Pyjamas Of Cotton
148	62082200	Women'S Or Girls' Nightdresses And Pyjamas Of Man-Made Fibres
149	62082900	Womens/Girl'S Nightdresses & Pyjamas Of Tex.Mat.(Exl.Cotton, Man Made Fib.
150	62089100	Women'S Or Girls' Dressing Gowns, Panties, Etc, Of Cotton
151	62089200	Women'S Or Girls' Dressing Gowns, Panties, Etc, Of Man-Made Fibres
152	62092000	Babies' Garments And Clothing Accessories Of Cotton
153	62093000	Babies' Garments And Clothing Accessories Of Synthetic Fibres
154	62101000	GARMENTS, MADE UP..OF HEAD.5602,5603,5903, 5906 OR 5907 OF FABRICS OF HEAD.5602 OR 5603
155	62102000	Garments Of 6201.11 To 19, Made Up Of Fabrics Of 59.03, 59.06 Or 59.07
156	62103000	Garments Of 6202.11 To 19, Made Up Of Fabrics Of 59.03, 59.06 Or 59.07
157	62104000	Men'S Or Boys' Garments Made Up Of Fabrics Of 59.03, 59.06 Or 59.07
158	62105000	Women'S Or Girls' Garments Made Up Of Fabrics Of 59.03, 59.06 Or 59.07
159	62122000	Girdles And Panty-Girdles
160	62123000	Corselettes
161	62129000	Corsets, Braces, Garters, Suspenders And Similar Articles
162	62132000	Handkerchiefs Of Cotton

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
163	62139000	Handkerchiefs Of Other Textiles, (Exl. Silk/Silk Waste,Cotton).
164	62141000	Shawls,Scarves,Mufflers,Mantillas,Veils,& The Like Of Silk Or Silk Waste
165	62142000	Shawls,Scarves,Mufflers,Mantillas,Veils & The Like Of Wool/Finearri Hair
166	62144000	Shawls,Scarves,Mufflers,Mantillas,Veils & The Like Of Artificial Fibre
167	62151000	Ties, Bow Ties And Cravats Of Silk Or Silk Waste
168	62152000	Ties, Bow Ties And Cravats Of Man-Made Fibres
169	62159000	Ties, Bow Ties And Cravats Of Other Textiles,Nes(Excl.Silk Man Made Fibre)
170	62160000	Gloves, Mittens And Mitts
171	62171000	Clothing Accessories, Nes
172	62179000	Parts Of Garments Or Clothing Accessories, Nes

**b) List of 91 products where Regulatory Duty (RD) has been withdrawn**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	02063010	Fresh Or Chilled Edible Swine Offal, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
2	02063090	Fresh Or Chilled Edible Swine Offal, Nes
3	02064110	Frozen Swine Livers, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
4	02064190	Frozen Swine Livers, Nes
5	02064910	Frozen Edible Swine Offal(Excl. Livers), Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
6	02064990	Frozen Edible Swine Offal, Excl. Livers, Nes
7	02071110	Fresh/Chilled Meat&Edible Offal Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
8	02071190	Fresh Or Chilled Meat&Edible Offal Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Nes
9	02071210	Frozen Meat&Edible Offal Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
10	02071290	Frozen Meat & Edible Offals Of Fowls Not Cut Inpieces, Nes
11	02071310	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts And Offal Of Meat Fowls, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
12	02071390	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts And Offal Of Chickens, Nes
13	02071410	Frozen Cuts And Offal Of Chicken, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
14	02071490	Frozen Cuts And Offal Meat Of Fowls, Nes

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
15	02072410	Fresh/Chilled Meat&Edible Offal Of Turkeys Not Cut Inpieces, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5
16	02072490	Fresh Or Chilled Meat & Edible Offal Of Trukeys Not Cut Inpieces, Nes
17	02072510	Frozen Meat & Edible Offal Of Turkeys Not Cut Inpieces, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
18	02072590	Frozen Meat & Edible Offal Of Turkeys Not Cut Inpieces, Nes
19	02072610	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts And Offal Of Meat Of Turkeys, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
20	02072690	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts And Offal Of Meat Of Trukeys, Nes
21	02072710	Frozen Cuts And Offal Of Meat Of Turkeys, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
22	02072790	Frozen Cuts And Offal Of Meat Of Turkeys, Nes
23	02074110	Meat and edible offal of not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled of ducks wrapped/canned
24	02074190	Other meat and edible offal of not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled of ducks
25	02074210	Meat and edible offal of not cut in pieces, frozen of ducks wrapped/canned upto 2.5 k
26	02074290	Other meat and edible offal of not cut in pieces, frozen of ducks
27	02074310	Meat and edible offal of fatty livers, fresh or chilled of ducks wrapped/canned upto
28	02074390	Other meat and edible offal of fatty livers, fresh or chilled of ducks
29	02074410	Other meat and edible offal of fresh or chilled of ducks wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg
30	02074490	Other, meat and edible offal of fresh or chilled of ducks nes.
31	02074510	Other frozen meat and edible offal of ducks wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
32	02074590	Other, frozen meat and edible offal of ducks nes,
33	02075110	Meat and edible offal not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled of geese wrapped/canned upto 2
34	02075190	Other meat and edible offal not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled of geese
35	02075210	Meat and edible offal not cut in pieces, frozen of ducks wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
36	02075290	Other meat and edible offal not cut in pieces, frozen of geese
37	02075310	Meat and edible offal fatty livers, fresh or chilled of geese wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
38	02075390	Other meat and edible offal fatty livers, fresh or chilled of geese
39	02075410	Other meat and edible offal fresh or chilled of geese wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
40	02075490	Other meat and edible offal fresh or chilled of geese, nes
41	02075510	Other meat and edible offal frozen geese wrapped/canned upto 25 k
42	02075590	Other meat and edible offal frozen of geese nes,
43	02076010	Meat and edible offal of guinea fowls wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
44	02076090	Meat and edible offal of guinea fowls EXCL. wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
45	03025210	Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus), Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
46	03025290	Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus), EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
47	03025390	Coalfish (Pollachius virens), EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
48	03025410	Hake (Merluccius spp, Urophycis spp), Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
49	03025490	Hake (Merluccius spp, Urophycis spp), EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
50	03025590	Alaska Pollack (Theraga chalcogramma), EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
51	03025610	Blue whittings (Micromesistius poutassou, Micromesistius australis), Wrapped/canned up
52	03025690	Blue whittings (Micromesistius poutassou, Micromesistius australis), EXCL. Wrapped/can
53	07092010	Asparagus, Fresh Or Chilled, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
54	07092090	Asparagus, Fresh Or Chilled, Nes
55	07094010	Celery Other Than Celeriac, Fresh Or Chilled, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
56	07094090	Celery Other Than Celeriac, Fresh Or Chilled, Nes
57	07097010	Spinach, Fresh Or Chilled, Wrapped/Canned upto 2.5 kg
58	07097090	Spinach Fresh Or Chilled, Nes
59	07099110	Other Globe artichokes, Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
60	07099190	Other Globe artichokes, EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
61	07099210	Olives, Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
62	07099290	Olives, EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
63	07099310	Pumpkins, squash and gourds (Cucurbita spp), Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
64	07099390	Pumpkins, squash and gourds (Cucurbita spp), EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
65	08011210	Coconuts In the inner shell (endocarp) Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
66	08011910	Coconuts, Not Desiccated, Fresh Or Dried Wrapped/Canned Upto 2.5kg
67	19019091	Imported in bulk by VAT registered food processing industries
68	27112100	Natural Gas In Gaseous State
69	29173210	Dioctyl orthphthalates pharmaceutical grade
70	29173300	Dinonyl Or Didecyl Orthophthalates
71	36010000	Propellent Powders
72	36049000	Signalling Flares... And Other Pyrotechnic Articles (Excl. Fireworks)
73	39233020	DMF Grade COC/COP Imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant pharmaceutical ind.
74	44188100	Engineered structural timber products: Glue-laminated timber (glulam)
75	44188200	Engineered structural timber products: Cross-laminated timber (CLT or X-lam)

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
76	44188300	Engineered structural timber products: I beams
77	44188900	Engineered structural timber products: NES
78	44189100	Other panels of bamboo, not Assembled flooring panels
79	44189200	Engineered structural timber products: Cellular wood panels
80	44201100	Statuettes and other ornaments: Of tropical wood
81	44201900	Statuettes and other ornaments: Excluding Of tropical wood
82	49100000	CALENDER OF ANY KIND, PRINTED, INCLUDING CALENDER BLOCKS
83	56050010	Metalized round yarn
84	64021200	Ski-Boots,Cross-Country Ski Footwear/Snowboard Boots,Of Rubber Or Plastics
85	64031200	Ski-Boots,Snowbrd Boots,With Rubber,Plastics,Leather Soles,& Leather Upper
86	84212195	Parts for imported by VAT registered refrigerator and freezer manufacturers
87	85271200	Pocket-size radio cassette-players
88	85272100	Combined with sound recording or reproducing apparatus:
89	85279100	Combined with sound recording or reproducing apparatus:
90	94013100	Swivel seats with variable height adjustment: of wood
91	94038200	Furniture of other materials, including cane, osier, bamboo or similar... Of bamb

**Table-03: List of 10 products where Tariff has been brought within the bound rate;**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	03061600	Cold-water shrimps and prawns (Pandalus spp, Crangon crangon)
2	08022110	Hazlenuts In Shell, Fresh Or Dried, Wrapped/Canned Upto 2.5kg
3	08084010	Quinces, Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
4	08084090	Quinces, EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 Kg
5	08094011	Plums Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg
6	08094019	Plums EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg
7	08094091	Sloes Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg
8	08094099	Sloes EXCL. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg
9	09061910	Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers., NES Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
10	09061990	Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers., NES Excl. Wrapped/canned upto 2.5 kg

**Table-04: Agricultural Sector**

**a) List of products where import duty (CD) has been reduced**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	0801.32.90	Cashew nuts in Shelled in bulk	15	5
2.	4819.20.10	Folding cartons, boxes and cases, of non-corrugated paper and paperboard of aseptic pack	25	10

**b) Regulatory Duty (RD) has been increased:**

Sl. No.	Heading	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	08.01	0801.32.90	Cashew nuts in Shelled in bulk	0%	10%

**Table-05: Health Sector**

**a) List of products where import duty (CD) has been reduced:**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	8421.29.30	Dialysis filter	10	1
2.	9033.00.10	Dialysis circuit	10	1

**b) List of products where New HS Code has been created:**

Sl. No.	New H.S. Code	Description	Customs Duty Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	8421.29.30	Dialysis filter	1
2.	9018.39.50	Spinal needle	5
3.	9033.00.10	Dialysis circuit	1

**c) Amendment of description in the HS Code of Ambulance:**

Existing Description	Changed Description
(1)	(2)
Ambulance fitted with essential equipment	Ambulance fitted with essential equipment having passenger cabin length exceeding 9 feet

**d) List of raw materials included in the notification related to Cancer Medicine manufacturers:**

Sl. No.	HS Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	2937.29.00	Abiraterone
2	2934.99.90	Abemaciclib, Capecitabine, Talazoparib, Niraparib, Fruquibtinib

**e) List of raw materials included in the notification related to Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) manufacturers:**

Sl. No.	HS Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	2933.39.00	4,7 DICHLOROQUINOLINE
2	2922.19.90	HYDROXYNOVALDIAMINE
3	2827.39.00	Ferric chloride Hexahydrate
4	2933.59.00	3-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]
5	2933.39.00	(S)-1-Boc-3-hydroxypiperidine
6	2933.49.00	Montelukast Cyclohexylamine Salt
7	2915.31.00	ETHYL ACETATE
8	2914.11.00	ACETONE

Sl. No.	HS Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
9	2933.99.00	Valsartan Methyl Ester
10	2933.39.00	PPS-1(5-Difluoromethoxy-2-mercapto-1-H-benzimidazole (CAS No-97963-62-7)
11	2933.39.00	PZL-cl(2-Chloromethyl-3,4-dimethoxypyridine HCl(CAS No-72830-09-2)
12	2933.32.20	Piperidine-3-amine dihydrochloride
13	2933.99.00	3-methyl-7-(2-butyn-1-yl)-8-bromoxanthin(TCG-2)
14	2932.99.00	TCG-5 ((R)-Piperidine-3-amine dihydrochloride)
15	2915.39.00	Iso-Propyl Acetate
16	2921.49.00	TCG-7((1R,2S)-rel-2-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)cyclopropanamine hydrochloride)

**f) Inclusion of items in Table-1 of pharmaceutical industries related notification**

Sl. No.	HS Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	2941.90.11	Aztihromycin (Compacted or Micronized or granules)

**g) The concessionary benefit for importing raw materials by referral hospitals has been reduced, and a 10% customs duty is now imposed instead of the previous 1%.**

**Table-06: Industrial Sector**

**List of products where Duty has been imposed/ increased/ decreased/withdrawn:**

**Supplementary Duty (reduction):**

Sl. No.	H.S.Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	0402.10.10	Milk In powder form, in retail packing of upto 2.5 kg	20%	0%

Sl. No.	H.S.Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
2	0402.21.10	Milk In powder form, in retail packing of upto 2.5 kg	20%	0%
3	0402.29.10	Milk In powder form, in retail packing of upto 2.5 kg	20%	0%

**Customs Duty (CD) reduction:**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	2905.11.91	Methanol (Methyl alcohol) in bulk	10	5

In the weaving industry-related notification, Glauber salt has been substituted with Disodium Sulphate under HS code 2833.11.00.

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**Customs Duty (CD) reduction for Polyester (Synthetic) Staple Fibre (PSF) and Pet CHIPS Manufacturers:**

Sl. No.	H.S.Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2905.31.10	Mono-Ethylene Glycol (MEG)	10	1
2	2917.36.10	Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA)	25	1

**Customs Duty (CD) reduction for Carpet Manufacturing industry:**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	5402.53.00	polypropylene yam	10	5

**Customs Duty (CD) reduction for Ferro-Alloy Manufacturing Industry:**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	8111.00.00	Manganese	10	5

**Increase of Customs Duty (CD) to support LRPC Wire manufacturers:**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description	Existing Rate (%)	Proposed Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	7217.10.00	Wire of iron or non-alloy steel Not plated or coated, whether or not polished	10	15
2	7217.20.00	Wire of iron or non-alloy steel Plated or coated with zinc	10	15
3	7217.30.00	Wire of iron or non-alloy steel Plated or coated with other base metals	10	15

**Table-07: Air conditioner and refrigerator manufacturer**

**Increase of duty to support local industry**

**list of items excluded from the refrigerator and air conditioner-related notification:**

Sl. No.	HS Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	8414.80.49	Compressors of a kind used in air conditioning machines
2	8414.30.90	Compressors of a kind used in refrigerating equipment

**List of items where CD has been increased in Air conditioner related SRO**

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Excisting Rate	Changed Rate
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	7212.20.90	5%	10%
2	7212.40.99	5%	10%
3	7411.10.90	5%	10%
4	7210.49.10	10%	15%
5	7210.61.10	10%	15%
6	7210.69.10	10%	15%
7	7210.70.10	10%	15%
8	7415.39.00	10%	15%
9	7607.11.10	10%	15%
10	7607.20.99	10%	15%
11	8421.39.99	10%	15%
12	8481.10.19	10%	15%
13	8481.40.19	10%	15%
14	8536.90.90	10%	15%

**Table-08: Switch, Socket Manufacturing Industry**

**List of products where minimum value has been Increased**

HS Code	Description of Goods	Unit	Existing Value USD /Unit	Existing Value USD /Unit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
8538.90.90	Switch socket parts	kg	4.50	6.00
8536.50.00	Other switches	kg	6.00	8.00
8536.69.10	Plug/socket. etc.	kg	5.00	8.00
8536.69.90				

### Table-09: Electric Motor Manufacturer

**List of items included in the electric motor manufacturing industry related notification:**

**TABLE-9(1)**

<b>Heading</b>	<b>H.S. Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
(1)	(2)	(3)
32.08	3208.10.20	Insulating Varnish
72.17	7217.10.00	Wire Of Iron (Non Alloy Steel) (Dia: 6.5mm to 15mm)
74.08	7408.19.10	Copper Wire (Super Enameled Insulatted) (Dia: 0.10mm to 1mm)
76.01	7601.10.10	Aluminum Ingot
76.05	7605.29.00	Copper Clad Aluminum Wire (Super Enameled Insulatted) (Dia: 0.10mm to 0.50mm)
85.03	8503.00.30	Motor Bush
85.32	8532.22.10	Capacitor

**TABLE-9(2)**

<b>Heading</b>	<b>H.S. Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
(1)	(2)	(3)
72.27	7227.90.10	MS Shaft (Dia: 5mm to 25mm)
73.18	7318.22.10	Metal Washer
85.03	8503.00.92	Blank stator

### **Items excluded from raw materials related notification (SRO 119/2022)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>H.S. Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	3901.10.10	TPMC imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry
2	7601.10.10	Aluminium ingot imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry
3	8503.00.30	Rotor/Motor bush imported by electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry

Sl. No.	H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
4	7227.90.10	M.S. rod/shaft imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry
5	7318.22.10	Rotor washers imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry
6	7408.19.10	Copper wire imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry
7	8532.22.10	Aluminium electrolytic fixed capacitor imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry
8	8536.69.10	Plug terminal imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry

**Table-10: Amendments to the First Schedule of The Customs Act 2023**

**List of HS codes where changes, amendments, splits, mergers, and new codes have been created**

**a) List of HS Codes with amendments and changes**

Sl. No.	Sub-heading/ H.S. Code	Existing Description	Changed Description
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	8503.00.30	--- Rotor/Motor bush/Casing for electric motors imported by electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry	--- Rotor/Motor bush/Casing for electric motors
2	9403.20.20	Racks of a kind used in the pharmaceutical laboratory imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant pharmaceutical industries	Imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant pharmaceutical industries

Sl. No.	Sub-heading/ H.S. Code	Existing Description	Changed Description
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3	9403.60.10	Furniture of a kind used in pharmaceutical laboratory imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant pharmaceutical industries	Imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant pharmaceutical industries

**b) Description of ambulances has been changed across various HS Codes falling under heading 87.03:**

**c) List of split HS Codes**

Sl. No.	Existing H.S. Code	Splited H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	2905.11.90	2905.11.91	---- Methanol (Methyl alcohol) in bulk
		2905.11.99	---- Other
2.	3304.99.00	3304.99.10	--- Face and/or skin cream
		3304.99.20	--- Moisture lotion
		3304.99.30	--- Petroleum jelly
		3304.99.90	--- Other
3.	4819.20.00	4819.20.10	--- Of aseptic pack
		4819.20.90	--- Other
4.	9033.00.00	9033.00.10	---Dialysis circuit
		9033.00.90	--- Other

**d) List of merged HS Codes**

Sl. No.	Existing H.S. Code	Splited H.S. Code
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	3901.10.10	3901.10.00
	3901.10.90	
2	7601.10.10	7601.10.00
	7601.10.90	
3	7318.22.10	7318.22.00
	7318.22.90	
4	7408.19.10	7408.19.00
	7408.19.90	
5	8532.22.10	8532.22.00
	8532.22.90	
6	8536.69.10	8536.69.00
	8536.69.90	

**e) List of newly created HS Code**

Sl. No.	New H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	9018.39.50	Spinal needle
2	2710.19.33	Synthetic lubricating oil
3	8418.69.97	Chiller, capacity 50 tons or above
4	8421.29.30	Dialysis filter
5	9801.00.71	Cellular Smartphone, Value not exceeding 30,000.00 Taka
6	9801.00.72	Cellular Smartphone, Value exceeding 30,000.00 Taka but not exceeding 60,000.00 Taka
7	9801.00.79	Cellular Smartphone, Value exceeding 60,000.00 Taka

**f) List of deleted HS Codes**

Sl. No.	New H.S. Code	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	7227.90.10	--- M.S. rod/shaft imported by Industrial IRC holder VAT compliant electric fan motor or water pump motor manufacturing industry