



READINESS FOR 2030: BANGLADESH'S PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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From the desk of Editor



Resilient growth and development are profoundly interlinked with peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability. The health, education, and well-being of people; poverty reduction; and environmental sustainability are all interconnected factors that influence business growth, economic resilience, and national development.

The current edition of the FICCI Monthly Bulletin spotlights the theme: "Readiness for 2030: Bangladesh's Pathway to Sustainable Development." Bangladesh has made notable progress in several key areas of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — including poverty reduction (SDG 1) and hunger eradication (SDG 2); a decline in neonatal and under-five mortality rates (SDG 3); achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education (SDG 4); expanding access to electricity (SDG 7); increasing the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (SDG 8); and raising the share of GDP contributed by manufacturing (SDG 9).

As we enter the final stretch toward achieving the SDGs by 2030, strengthening implementation and addressing existing gaps and constraints require accelerated actions and proactive partnerships between the public and private sectors. Such collaborations are essential to pooling expertise, innovation, technology, and infrastructure in support of sustainable and inclusive growth.

As a leading business chamber, FICCI emphasizes green transformation, explores untapped business opportunities, promotes inclusive growth, and supports collaborative partnerships for national development. Alongside our regular initiatives, we organize monthly events such as Luncheon Meetings and Leaders' Talks to exchange expertise and industry experience, fostering discussions on potential avenues for inclusive and resilient growth.

This edition of the FICCI Monthly Bulletin presents a rich collection of expert analyses and practical insights showcasing how various sectors are integrating environmentally responsible practices and addressing inclusivity gaps. It also features member stories highlighting significant contributions across industries.

With just five years remaining until 2030, we hope this edition of the FICCI Monthly Bulletin will inspire our readers and stakeholders to accelerate collaborative actions toward achieving the SDGs — driving social, economic, and environmental sustainability while fostering resilient and inclusive business growth.

T. I. M. Nurul Kabir

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President, FICCI and
Chairman & Managing Director,
Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Stakeholders,

It is my pleasure to present the September 2025 edition of our monthly bulletin, themed **READINESS FOR 2030: BANGLADESH'S PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**.

Bangladesh has made impressive progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG Index score rose from 44.4 in 2016 to 65.9 in 2023, reflecting steady advances in both social and economic development. Poverty reduction has been a remarkable achievement: the national poverty rate declined from 24.3 percent in 2016 to about 18.7 percent in 2022, while extreme poverty fell from 12.9 percent to 5.6 percent. These gains show that inclusive growth is no longer just an aspiration, it is becoming a reality.

Social indicators tell a similar story of resilience. Under-five mortality dropped from 125 per 1,000 live births in 1995 to just 28 in 2020, while maternal mortality decreased from 447 to around 163 per 100,000 live births. Education outcomes are equally encouraging, with primary enrolment now exceeding 97 percent and gender parity achieved at both primary and secondary levels, an achievement few countries in our region can claim.

Yet, we cannot overlook the challenges that lie ahead. Income inequality has widened, with the Gini coefficient increasing from 0.482 in 2016 to 0.499 in 2022. Healthcare access remains uneven, especially in rural communities, and the doctor-to-population ratio still lags behind international benchmarks. Climate resilience and environmental sustainability also require urgent attention, as progress on climate action, sustainable cities, and biodiversity remains uneven and often hampered by resource constraints.

Looking forward, industry, innovation, and infrastructure will be critical in addressing these gaps and keeping Bangladesh on track for 2030. The private sector, working hand in hand with government and development partners, has an essential role to play. Foreign investors can contribute not only capital but also expertise, technology, and global best practices to accelerate sustainable and inclusive growth.

This edition brings together expert analyses, diverse perspectives, and practical insights on how different sectors are driving progress and addressing these gaps, along with stories from member companies that showcase their contributions across industries. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all contributors, sponsors, and the FICCI Secretariat for their dedicated efforts in publishing this bulletin.

Let us continue to work together toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to FICCI.

Warm regards,

Zaved Akhtar
President, FICCI

THEMATIC ARTICLE

**FICCI'S COMMITMENT TO
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE
CONTINUES TO SHAPE A
PROSPEROUS FUTURE
FOR BANGLADESH**



SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE: ROADMAP FOR 2030



Ahmed Raihan Ahsanullah
Head of Business Communications
& Sustainability



Sustainability: A Strategic Imperative for Modern Businesses

In today's business landscape, sustainability is no longer a peripheral concern, it is a strategic imperative. As climate disruptions, resource constraints, and social inequalities intensify, companies are recognizing that long-term success hinges on responsible growth. Sustainable practices not only reduce operational risks but also unlock innovation, build stakeholder trust, and ensure resilience. In Bangladesh, leading companies have embedded sustainability into their core strategies either through transition to renewable energy sources, water stewardship, or circularity—demonstrating that profitability and purpose can coexist.

Guided by the company's global sustainability framework, BAT Bangladesh has embraced its sustainability goals and adapted them to align with national priorities. The company's sustainability framework is anchored around three strategic impact areas: **Climate, Circular Economy, and Nature**, which complement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Climate: Reducing Emissions and Enhancing Energy Efficiency

In line with BAT Group's global sustainability targets, BAT Bangladesh has made notable progress in minimizing its environmental impact through energy optimization and cleaner technologies. In 2024, the company installed 5.59 MW of solar capacity across multiple sites, including a 3.2 MW rooftop system at its Savar factory, enabling it to meet 10% of its total electricity needs from renewable sources. This initiative is part of its broader ambition to reach 50% renewable energy usage by 2030.

To address frequent power outages and reduce reliance on diesel generators, BAT Bangladesh also deployed a Modular Industrial Online UPS, cutting diesel use by 95% over a 40-day period and saving 29,080 liters of fuel - equivalent to 80 tons of CO₂ emissions, which was avoided. Additionally, the company purchased 12 MWh of International Renewable Energy Certificates (IRECs) to further support its clean energy transition.



Circular Economy: Minimizing Waste and Promoting Resource Efficiency

Circularity is deeply embedded in BAT Bangladesh's operations. In 2024, the company sustained less than 1% waste to landfill, while achieving a recycling rate of over 90% across its sites. Advanced composting machines are on track to be introduced in Savar factory, which will reduce organic waste volume by ~80% and contribute to the company's target of 25% waste reduction by 2025 (vs. 2017 baseline).

Project 'Shurokkha', a pioneering initiative for collecting and recycling crop protection agent (CPA) containers, engaged 2,900 farmers in 2024 alone. These containers are decontaminated and repurposed into non-food-grade products, ensuring safe disposal and reducing environmental hazards in farming communities.

The company's commercial sites have also piloted modern, automated composting machines that efficiently convert organic waste into usable compost within hours. Plans are underway to scale this technology with higher-capacity units, reinforcing BAT Bangladesh's commitment to responsible waste management.



Nature: Restoring Ecosystems and Conserving Water

BAT Bangladesh's nature-positive approach is reflected in its afforestation, biodiversity, and water stewardship efforts. Since 1980, the company's afforestation initiative has contributed to the creation of biodiversity corners, medicinal gardens, and green zones across the country - supporting ecological restoration, enhancing biodiversity, and offering fuelwood alternatives for rural communities. This national award winning initiative proudly marks its presence across several locations in Bangladesh, including the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar, Kushtia-Jessore Highway, Rajshahi City, and Chattogram Airport among others. As part of its forest-positive commitment, the company also initiated a biodiversity conservation program on 1.72 hectares of barren land, planting 6,500 native saplings to enhance ecological resilience and support habitat restoration.



Water stewardship remains a cornerstone of BAT Bangladesh's sustainability strategy. In 2025, the company proudly became the first in the country to achieve full Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification across all its manufacturing sites—a landmark recognition of its leadership in industrial water governance. With a 35% reduction in water withdrawal (vs. 2017 baseline) and a 39.1% water recycling rate, BAT Bangladesh continues to set the benchmark for responsible water management in the private sector.

The company's clean drinking water initiative continues to improve lives in arsenic- and salinity-affected regions, operating over 120 filtration plants across 25 districts to enhance access to safe water and support better community health.

Embedding Sustainability for Long-Term Impact

BAT Bangladesh's sustainability journey reflects a unified vision where environmental stewardship, operational excellence, and community empowerment progress together. By embedding sustainability into its core strategy, the company aims to create shared value for its business, stakeholders, and the wider community.

As Bangladesh approaches 2030, the commitment and preparedness of industries to adopt sustainability principles will be pivotal in determining the nation's path toward inclusive and resilient growth. In their role as responsible corporate citizens, all institutions bear a collective responsibility to actively contribute to this transformative journey, thereby supporting the country's ongoing development and advancement.

BSTI'S READINESS FOR 2030: BANGLADESH'S PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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Bangladesh with Vision 2041 as its compass and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2030 on the horizon, the country is navigating a course toward prosperity, resilience, and global competitiveness. In this grand journey, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) hold the wheel of the national quality infrastructure. Standards are more than technical documents which may look dry on paper, but in practice they are the hidden architecture of modern life shaping safe products, clean energy, nutritious food, and fair trade. Without them, progress would be a house built on sand. The readiness of BSTI is therefore synonymous with Bangladesh's readiness to meet its global commitments.

► Standards as Enablers of the SDGs

The SDGs call for integrated progress across areas such as health, education, sustainable industry, responsible consumption, and climate resilience. Each of these areas is directly connected with standards. For example:

- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** BSTI has developed and enforced fortification standards for edible oil, iodized salt, and rice to improve public nutrition.
- **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** Food standards ensure safety and protect consumer health.
- **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Energy efficiency and renewable energy standards support the shift toward greener technologies.
- **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure):** Conformity assessment services ensure industrial competitiveness and resilience.
- **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production):** Standards for eco-labeling, waste management and environmentally friendly products promote sustainability.

By aligning national standards with international references such as **International Organization for Standardization(ISO)**, **International Electro technical Commission(IEC)**, **Codex Alimentarius Commission(CAC)**, **Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)**, **Bureau International des Poids et Mesures(BIPM)**, **Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale(OIML)** and **South Asian Regional Standards Organization(SARSO)**, BSTI ensures that Bangladeshi products meet both domestic and global requirements. This strengthens trade competitiveness while protecting consumers and the environment.

► Institutional Strengthening for 2030

BSTI has not stood idle. Over the past decade, it has quietly but steadily built muscle. BSTI has expanded its reach and upgraded its infrastructure to respond to evolving needs:

Testing and Certification: Laboratories in food, construction materials, electrical goods, and environment-related products now provide reliable conformity assessment services. Efforts are ongoing to increase testing parameters in line with global best practice.

Digital Transformation: BSTI has taken initiative to introduce online certification, licensing, and e-payment systems, reducing time and cost for businesses. A roadmap toward latest technology-based traceability is under consideration.

Capacity Building: Continuous training of inspectors and officers ensures up-to-date knowledge on modern inspection methods, emerging risks, and effective communication with industry.

Trade Facilitation: As the focal point of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Enquiry Point, BSTI enables exporters to access updated information on technical regulations and conformity requirements in overseas markets.



► Clouds on the Horizon

Of course, the road to 2030 is not free of potholes. Resources are finite, and modernizing every laboratory to cutting-edge standards is a tall order. Advanced testing in high-tech sectors remains a work in progress. Public awareness of standards especially in rural markets still lags, meaning unsafe or substandard goods sometimes slip through. These are not insurmountable obstacles, but they are reminders that progress is rarely a straight line. Addressing these challenges will be critical for 2030 readiness.

► Pathway to Sustainable Development

To turn ambition into reality, BSTI is sharpening its focus on a handful of priorities:

1. **Green Standards and Climate Action:** Introducing standards for renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture, and low-carbon construction materials.
2. **Food and Nutrition Security:** Scaling up enforcement of fortification standards and collaborating with ministries to expand coverage.
3. **Inclusive Trade:** Supporting SMEs with certification and training to access global value chains.
4. **Innovation and Digitalization:** Promoting smart conformity assessment through artificial intelligence, e-certification, and paperless processes.
5. **International Collaboration:** Strengthening engagement with ISO, IEC, Codex, and regional platforms to adopt emerging global standards quickly.

As Bangladesh marches toward 2030, standards will serve as the backbone of sustainable industrialization, consumer protection, and trade growth. BSTI, as the custodian of national quality infrastructure, is committed to ensuring that every product, service, and process aligns with the principles of safety, sustainability, and global competitiveness. By investing in modern laboratories, strengthening institutional capacity, and fostering international cooperation, BSTI is positioning itself as a key enabler of Bangladesh's pathway to sustainable development. The readiness of BSTI for 2030 is not just about compliance. It is about building confidence among consumers, investors, and global partners that Bangladesh is prepared to deliver safe, sustainable, and competitive products for the world.

LDC GRADUATION AND THE SUSTAINABILITY TEST FOR BANGLADESH'S PRIVATE SECTOR



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Key Takeaways:

- 1. Sustainability as Strategy, Not Side Project:** Businesses that integrate SDG goals into their growth strategies gain access to new markets, stronger reputations, and resilient operations.
- 2. Partnerships and Coalitions Drive Scale:** Alliances across sectors—from finance to civil society—amplify scale, innovation, and system change.
- 3. Transition Periods Are Windows, Not Risks:** LDC graduation and tightening global norms should catalyze reform, not create hesitation.

Bangladesh's Next Frontier: Competing Through Sustainability

Bangladesh is set to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026. This isn't just a policy change—it's a major moment for investors and businesses. For years, our industries, especially ready-made garments (RMG), benefited from special trade deals. But those benefits are ending. Now, Bangladesh must compete in global markets where sustainability—not just low prices—will decide who succeeds.

A Global Wake-Up Call

The global context is sobering. The United Nations' 2024 SDG Report shows that fewer than one in five targets are on track, with Asia and the Pacific projected to miss the 2030 deadline by decades. Yet the same report underscores that private-sector engagement is indispensable to accelerate delivery. Business-aligned analyses reinforce this: the Business & Sustainable Development Commission estimates that achieving the SDGs could unlock at least US\$12 trillion in new opportunities and create 380 million jobs worldwide by 2030.

Why It Matters for Bangladesh

For Bangladesh, the stakes are immediate. The RMG sector, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of export earnings and over US\$45 billion annually, is highly exposed to compliance and reputational risks. International buyers are no longer satisfied with low-cost production; they demand verifiable sustainability credentials, from labour standards to emissions reporting. At the same time, domestic digital platforms such as bKash, with its vast agent network and tens of millions of users, show how technology-driven business models can scale inclusion and create new markets. Aligning these business lines with SDG outcomes reduces risk, attracts ESG-aware capital, and often improves operating economics, for example, by lowering energy and input costs.

Lessons from the Region

Across the Asia-Pacific, examples abound of how sustainability integration drives competitiveness. Walmart's Project Gigaton has mobilised suppliers in China and across the region to cut emissions, with reductions measured in millions of tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. IKEA's Better Cotton programme has reworked supply chains in South Asia, training farmers to improve yields and environmental performance so that sustainable cotton becomes a bankable input for exporters. In the Philippines, AC Energy's green bond, anchored by IFC, has financed utility-scale renewables and demonstrated how cross-border capital can accelerate energy transitions.



CHEVRON BANGLADESH: ADVANCING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



Muhammad Imrul Kabir
Corporate Affairs Director
Chevron Bangladesh



Chevron Bangladesh has long demonstrated a commitment to sustainable development, aligning its community engagement efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through strategic partnerships and targeted social investment initiatives, the company has made significant contributions in improving health, education, environmental sustainability, and economic development for the community surrounding its operations which **supports 9 out of 17 UN SDGs**.



Health and Well-being

Chevron's healthcare initiatives reflect a deep-rooted commitment to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. Since 2006, the company has supported affordable primary healthcare through the **Karimpur and Shastipur community clinics**, operated by Samaaj Kallayan Sangstha (SSKS), serving over **120,000 people annually** near the Bibiyana Gas Field. Additionally, **12 satellite clinics** extend services to remote areas in Nabiganj Upazila, Habiganj.

Since 2013, Chevron has been partnering with **Rotaplast International**, facilitating over **600 reconstructive surgeries** for more than **500 patients** with cleft lips, palates, and other facial anomalies—restoring dignity and hope to many.

In 2022, Chevron collaborated with **Save the Children** and launched the “**Integrated Support for Children with Disabilities (ISCwD)**” project, enhancing inclusive education and healthcare. The initiative identified **394 children with disabilities**, provided **155 assistive devices**, improved accessibility in **25 schools**, and enrolled **62 children** in formal education.

In 2025, Chevron extended its support to **60 individuals** with disabilities in greater Sylhet by providing artificial limbs in partnership with **Swisscontact Bangladesh** and **Jalalabad Disabled Rehab Centre and Hospital**.

The same year, it donated a **Tissue Analyzer/ Frozen Section Analyzer** to the **National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, Dhaka**, enabling real-time diagnostics and affordable treatment.

Further contributions include **10 hospital beds** to Jalalabad Disabled Rehab Centre and a **menstrual hygiene awareness campaign** in 2024 at Nadampur High School, reaching **400 female** students across four schools.



Education

Chevron's investment in education is helping bridge gaps in access and quality. Its partnership with the **Asian University for Women (AUW)** supports a **Math and Science Summer School**, empowering young women to pursue STEM careers. Since 2019, over **370 students** have graduated from this month-long residential program in Chattogram.

Beyond higher education, Chevron has enhanced learning environments in schools near its operational areas by providing **scholarships, teacher remuneration, computer labs, sports equipment, furniture, sanitation facilities, and tube wells**—ensuring holistic support for students and educators alike.



Environmental and Community Safety

Chevron Bangladesh's environmental stewardship is evident in its long-term commitment to green environment. Over the past two decades, the company has planted **more than 160,000 trees** near its gas plants and in Dhaka city, contributing to carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

As part of its **green initiatives**, Chevron Bangladesh installed over **70 solar-powered street lights** in Habiganj and Moulavibazar, enhancing nighttime safety of the community.

In 2023 and 2025, Chevron Bangladesh supported waste management in Sylhet by providing approximately **650 waste bins** and **60 waste collection vans**, promoting cleaner communities. Since 2019, it has also sponsored **road safety awareness campaigns**, educating drivers, transport leaders, students, and community members on safe road practices.

Chevron has consistently provided **humanitarian aid** during floods and natural disasters, reinforcing its role as a responsive and responsible corporate citizen.

Economic Development

Chevron's economic development programs have empowered thousands in the Sylhet region. The **"Uttoron - Skills for Better Life"** project, implemented with Swisscontact and supported by the Asian Development Bank, trained **2,014 youth** in trades like light engineering, construction, and garment machine operation. Notably, **24% of trainees were female**, and **73% found employment** post-training.

The **"Uddokta - Empowering Entrepreneurs"** project uplifted **2,700 VDO-affiliated households**, increasing average income by **51%**, while **7,500 indirect households** saw a **54% rise**. Additionally, **1,100 MSMEs** (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises), experienced a **55% income boost**, showcasing the project's transformative impact.

From 2015 to 2022, the **"Jibika"** initiative, implemented through BRAC's Integrated Development Program, supported **22,500 household members** in Sylhet, Moulavibazar, and Habiganj. It fostered entrepreneurship through **110 Village Development Organizations (VDOs)**, with **1,949 members** engaged in **19 joint ventures**, and all VDOs registered with the Department of Cooperatives.



A Commitment to Sustainable Progress

Chevron Bangladesh's unwavering dedication to the UN Sustainable Development Goals is not just a reflection of corporate responsibility—it's a testament to the power of strategic partnerships and long-term community investment. From healthcare and education to environmental stewardship and economic empowerment, Chevron's initiatives are creating tangible, lasting change in the lives of thousands across the Sylhet region and beyond.

As Bangladesh continues its journey toward inclusive and sustainable development, Chevron's model of community engagement offers a compelling blueprint for how private sector can help drive national progress. By aligning its operations with community partnership initiatives, Chevron Bangladesh is not only **fueling the nation's energy needs** but also supporting the community needs **over the last 30 years**.

READINESS FOR 2030: BANGLADESH'S PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



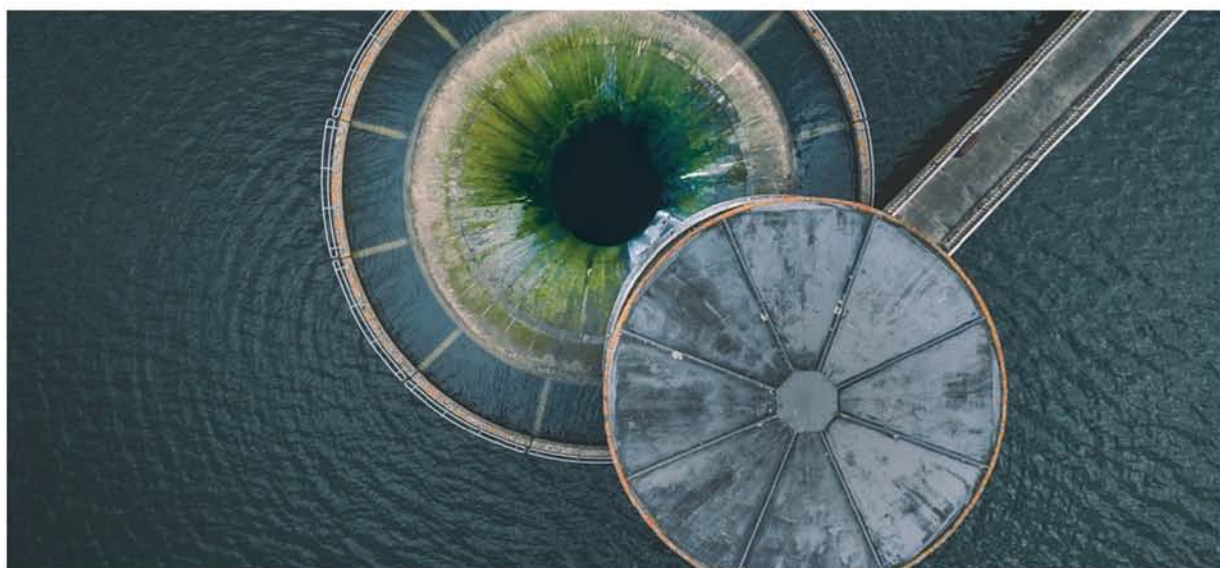
Shams Zaman
Country Managing Partner
PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Bangladesh



Bangladesh's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is diverse, marked by notable progress in areas such as poverty reduction, access to clean drinking water and sanitation, while facing persistent challenges in others. Currently, the country ranks 114th out of 167 countries on the SDG Index. As of 2025, 18% of the SDG targets are on track which is an improvement from 15% in 2023. This compares to 17% of targets on track across the Asia-Pacific region.

Recent sources show that the country is performing relatively well in advancing the SDGs compared to regional and global averages. Bangladesh has made progress on 31% of the 248 monitoring indicators, outperforming many countries in the Asia-Pacific. The country has shown above-average progress on SDG 4 (*Quality Education*) and SDG 7 (*Affordable and Clean Energy*).

Bangladesh is particularly strong in areas such as poverty reduction, quality education, clean energy, and gender equality, with 22% of targets on track. However, challenges continue in environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and healthcare. Despite ongoing development efforts, projections suggest that Bangladesh may not fully achieve the SDGs until 2045.



A Balanced Overview of Bangladesh: The Positive, the Negative, and What's Lacking

According to recent data, the Voluntary National Review (VNR) highlights Bangladesh's progress in poverty reduction, hunger alleviation, child mortality, gender equality in education, electricity access, manufacturing, and social protection funding. Key initiatives include SDG Action Plan, SDG Tracker, financing strategies, and institutional frameworks for data and implementation.

However, assessing progress stays difficult due to limitations in official reporting mechanisms. The SDG Tracker reports progress in only 8 of the 39 targets adopted as national priorities. On the other hand, 4 of these targets are off track, such as increasing female labor force participation to 50%, achieving 10% annual GDP growth, reducing unemployment below 3%, and increasing manufacturing employment to 25%. Only the target on reducing deaths from natural disasters is currently on track.

Bangladesh SDG Update 2025: Priorities and Challenges

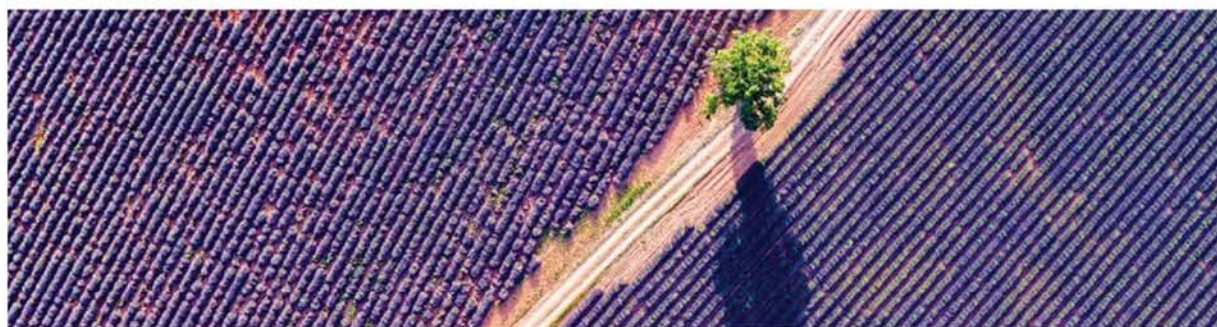
To achieve the SDGs, Bangladesh must overcome a number of complex challenges, including financial constraints, ineffective policy implementation, lack of interdepartmental coordination, limited research funding, a shortage of skilled labor, and lack of information availability and so on.

Building upon successful programs such as the “Skills for Employment Investment Program” and the “Employment Generation Program for the Poorest”, the report recommends further investment in income-generating activities for the poor, while simultaneously addressing systemic deficiencies and vulnerabilities.

At the same time, it is crucial to consider potential trade-offs and mitigation strategies. For example, development interventions may strain water resources, increase pressure on conservation efforts, and degrade natural habitats and biodiversity. According to the SDG Insights report, poverty-eradication policies must also promote accountable use of natural resources and develop biodiversity-resilient sustainable urbanization.



Bangladesh's economic growth has contributed to improvements in socioeconomic indicators and macro economic stability. Sustaining this momentum will be key to achieving goals such as poverty eradication, improved health outcomes, energy efficiency, and technological modernization.



The Next Significant Challenge: From Commitment to Action

Bangladesh has expressed a strong commitment to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, reaffirmed during the SDG Summit held in September 2023. At the summit, the country reinforced commitment to accelerate SDG transformation in the following areas:

1. Social protection and jobs
2. Essential services and education reform
3. Universal access to energy and a shift toward renewable sources
4. Food security, water supply, and sanitation systems
5. Digital transformation
6. Biodiversity and environmental protection
7. Gender equality
8. Disaster risk reduction

Bangladesh also committed to strengthening institutional arrangements in:

1. Developing data Ecosystems for monitoring and reporting
2. Skill development in public sector for implementation
3. Addressing funds and mechanisms
4. Raising awareness and creating localization plans

In conclusion, Bangladesh must act swiftly to implement the necessary reforms that will advance Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Accelerating sustainable development is essential to ensure inclusive progress and prosperity for all.

CAN CORPORATES COMPLEMENT NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?



Niaz Mohammad Siddiqui
GM, Strategic Communications
Robi Axiata PLC.



Around the world, corporate sector is often identified as greedy. It is this insatiable desire to grow that helps it to innovate relentlessly and improve on process and cost efficiency. Shareholders are also always keen to see the bottom-line fattening with passage of time.

Corporates with sound governance practices are known to pursue growth in more sustainable manner than those who lack in governance. But there is a growing recognition among the corporates that they have to be concerned beyond just profiteering. As a result concepts like sustainable growth through adherence to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework is now being mainstreamed across the corporate sector.

One of the key catalyst in this evolution is the changing landscape of customers' choice. As the young generation slowly becomes active members of an economy, they are demanding value and purpose based behaviour from the corporate sector. The traditional token philanthropic initiatives are not cutting it for the customers anymore. Hence, the corporates are willingly embracing their role as a responsible member of the society.



When the corporates are viewed from that lens, one may argue that there is a massive opportunity for them to contribute to the development agenda of the country they operate in. Because, ESG framework essentially compels them to be better at serving their customers, introducing innovative products, services and solutions while making sure their growth happens in harmony with the societal and environmental needs. Such outcomes can only be achieved when the organizations are practicing robust governance.

With that template in mind, if we look across the industry verticals, we will find that each company can contribute immensely to the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the food industry can join hands with the public and the development sector to complement the national drive on food and nutrition. Beverage and bottled water industry can take up initiatives to promote and facilitate drives for easier access to pure drinking water and proper sanitation.

The real estate industry can collaborate with the public and the development sector to introduce low cost innovative solution to ensure proper housing for all citizens of the country. Similarly, with an enabling regulatory environment, the telecom sector can contribute immensely in bridging the digital divide in the country. Hence, simply put, the possibilities are endless. The only thing that can limit is our lack of imagination and collaboration.

Now, let's take a look at where we stand in the global community in achieving the SDG targets. According to the Sustainable Development Report 2025, Bangladesh has been placed among the bottom three South Asian countries in the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, ranking 114th out of 167 nations globally with a score of 63.9 out of 100. The index has positioned Bangladesh ahead of only Pakistan and Afghanistan in South Asia.

Moreover, Bangladesh has been on track or maintaining progress in only 20.8% of the SDG targets over the past decade. Released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the 10th edition of the report shows that Bangladesh has made limited progress on 44.2% of the targets, while 35.1% are worsening.

Unfortunately, we can't rely on foreign aid to supplement the Government's effort in making up for the shortcomings in our SDG journey. In 2024 alone, a staggering \$25 billion gap emerged between the funds needed for United Nations appeals and the contributions received.

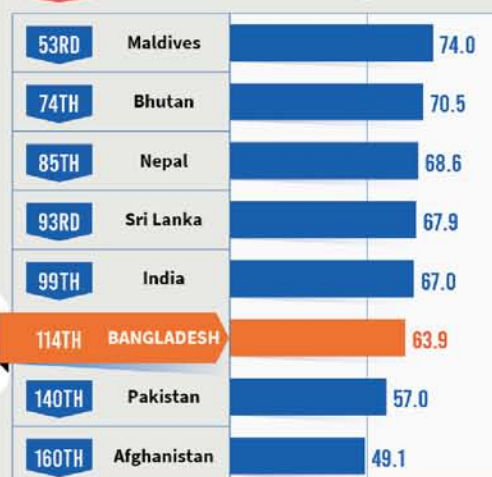
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDEX 2025

South Asian countries' scores out of 100

(Higher score indicates optimal performance on the SDGs)

Global rank

8



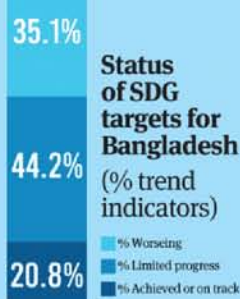
Source: Sustainable Development Report 2025

Infographic: The Business Standard

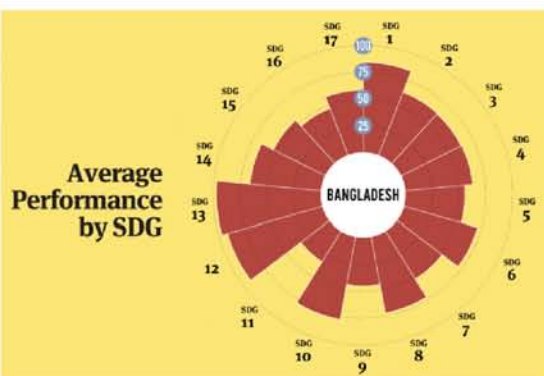
TRACKING SGDS IN BANGLADESH

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2025

Overall Performance



Average Performance by SDG



SDG Dashboard and Trends



Infographic: The Business Standard

Until recently, the U.S. was the world's largest aid donor, playing a critical role in international assistance. We have all seen how USAID was dismantled. The OECD projects a 9 to 17% drop in official development assistance (ODA) in 2025. This comes on top of a 9% drop in 2024. ODA in 2027 is projected to fall back to 2020 levels.

Given the stark realities, we literally have our backs against the wall. The only out of this rut is to embrace the corporate sector to support the national drive for sustainable development.

All the regulatory bodies hold the key to this paradigm shift. They can collaborate with the corporate sector to stimulate sustainable growth for them as well as the country or continue to stay in their high horses and let go of this once in a lifetime opportunity. Government has to choose which path it wants to take.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/sdg-index-2025-bangladesh-only-ahead-pakistan-afghanistan-south-asia-1172871>

READINESS FOR 2030: BANGLADESH'S PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Hedayet Ullah
Managing Director
Syngenta Bangladesh Limited



When the world adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the promise was clear- a collective journey to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity by 2030. For Bangladesh, the goals were more than global commitments—they became a roadmap for national transformation. Today, standing just five years away from 2030, the country has much to celebrate: sustained economic growth, reduced poverty rates, impressive gains in gender parity, and remarkable achievements in food production. Yet equally clear are the challenges that remain—climate resilience, inequality, healthcare, education, and sustainable industrialization.

Bangladesh's story of progress is inseparable from agriculture. Food security remains a cornerstone of national development, and agriculture contributes directly to multiple SDGs—zero hunger (SDG 2), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and climate action (SDG 13). Yet, agriculture is also where climate vulnerability strikes hardest. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, floods, and salinity threaten the very foundation of rural livelihoods. In this context, readiness for 2030 is not only about producing more—it is about producing smarter, greener, and fairer.



At Syngenta Bangladesh, we believe readiness for 2030 is not just about meeting targets—it is about transformation. With more than 50 years of presence in Bangladesh, our journey has always been rooted in farmers' prosperity. Because in this country, sustainable development begins with agriculture. Through innovation, partnerships, and responsible practices, we strive to be not just a participant, but a driver of sustainable development, delivering impact that resonates across SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 12 and SDG 17.

Syngenta's Pathway: Science, Sustainability, and Shared Value

As a global leader in agricultural science, Syngenta does more than deliver crop solutions—it anchors its mission in measurable sustainability. Globally, the Group pursues four core sustainability priorities: Higher Yields, Lower Impact, Regenerate Soil & Nature, Improve Rural Prosperity, and Sustainable Operations. These pillars guide investments, innovation, and partnerships across all markets—including Bangladesh.

In practice, this means Syngenta seeks to accelerate productivity while reducing environmental burdens; restore degraded soils, support biodiversity, and enable regenerative practices; broaden access to knowledge, finance, and market linkages for underserved farmers; and minimize the carbon footprint, waste, and resource use within its own operations.

By embedding these strategies, Syngenta is contributing tangibly to the Sustainable Development Goals — especially SDG 2 by improving yield; SDG 12 by judicious use of agri inputs and SDG 17 by working with governments, research institutions, NGOs, and farmer communities.



Driving Climate Resilience and Food Security

Across Bangladesh's coastal belt, where rising salinity and unpredictable weather have pushed many farmers to migrate in search of livelihoods, Syngenta is helping communities rebuild their roots in farming. Through its global sustainability vision, the company invests in climate-smart seeds and crop protection solutions that can withstand floods, droughts, and salt intrusion turning vulnerability into resilience.

In Satkhira, the GoGrow project has become a symbol of hope for enriching the livelihood of coastal farmers. It brings together saline-tolerant rice varieties, solar irrigation systems, regenerative agriculture, and rainwater harvesting to restore productivity on land once left barren. Farmers who once considered leaving their villages in search of work are now cultivating again—growing food, earning income, and rebuilding their futures close to home.

By 2030, Syngenta aims to expand GoGrow to reach 12,000 families and transform over 5,000 acres of vulnerable land into productive farms. This initiative reflects Syngenta's global goal of fostering higher yields with lower impact and improve rural Prosperity in alignment with SDG 2.

Integrated Learning Hub for Farmers

Technology may open doors, but true transformation in agriculture begins with knowledge. Recognizing this, Syngenta Bangladesh established the country's first infrastructural Farmer's School in Rajshahi—an innovation hub designed to strengthen the entire ecosystem around farming. Here, farmers don't just learn to grow better crops; they understand how every element of their livelihood connects. The curriculum integrates modern agronomy,

fisheries, livestock rearing, soil health management, regenerative practices, and safe use of agri inputs, helping farmers adopt a holistic approach that enhances both productivity and sustainability. Already, more than 1,200 farmers across 14 villages have already reported 20% higher yields and 15% lower costs, showing how knowledge-driven farming can build productivity, sustainability, and community resilience that connect SDG 2.

Building Sustainable Value Chains

Sustainability doesn't stop at harvest—it begins there. Farmers need access to markets, finance, and services that turn their hard work into real prosperity. Syngenta Bangladesh connects farming with the broader ecosystem that supports it. At the heart of this effort are CENTRIGO centers, which provide farmers with everything from financing and crop insurance to mechanized harvesting, tele-medicine service, seed treatment, and digital advisory through modern agronomy platforms. These centers also enable forward linkages with buyers such as PepsiCo, ensuring fair market access and better prices. This end-to-end model not only reduces post-harvest losses and waste but also builds resilient rural economies. By empowering farmers with knowledge, finance, and market connections, Syngenta is helping them move confidently from survival to success and strengthening Bangladesh's agricultural future and ensuring achieving SDG 2 and SDG 8.



Strengthening Partnerships for Impact

Collaboration is not a choice—it is the cornerstone of sustainable development. At Syngenta Bangladesh, partnerships lie at the heart of everything we do. We work closely with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), research institutes such as Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), local governments, NGOs, and private-sector partners to ensure that innovation truly reaches farmers' fields. Together, these collaborations are driving tangible change—developing climate-smart crop varieties, expanding agricultural insurance, promoting stewardship, and nurturing the next generation of agri-leaders through scholarships and training. This collective effort reflects the spirit of SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, proving that shared responsibility is the only path to lasting, sustainable success.

Looking Ahead

The next five years will be decisive. If Bangladesh can strengthen climate resilience, empower smallholders with knowledge, and foster inclusive innovation, it will not only achieve its SDG targets but emerge as a global model for sustainable growth. At Syngenta Bangladesh, our ambition is clear: to enable millions of farmers to thrive sustainably, to protect natural resources for the future, and to contribute to a resilient, food-secure, and equitable Bangladesh.

2030 is not a distant horizon, it is just around the corner. The readiness we build today will shape the prosperity of tomorrow. Together, with science, sustainability, and purpose, we can turn the vision of the SDGs into reality for Bangladesh.

MEMBER'S STORY

**FICCI MEMBER
COMPANIES PLAY A
SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE
SUSTAINABLE CIRCULAR
ECONOMIC GROWTH &
DEVELOPMENT OF
BANGLADESH**



COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON REAFFIRMS STRATEGIC COMMITMENT TO BANGLADESH AT CBC BUSINESS CONCLAVE 2025



The Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (CBC) Bangladesh Operations hosted its flagship event, the CBC Business Conclave 2025, at the Sheraton Dhaka on 21 September. It brought together prominent business leaders, policymakers, diplomats, and dignitaries from across various industries to foster strategic dialogue and collaboration. The Conclave served as a premier platform for high-level discussions on critical themes shaping the future of Bangladesh's financial landscape.

The presence of CBC's Global Chairman, Mr. Sharhan Muhseen, Global Managing Director, Mr. Sanath Manatunge, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Najith Meewanage, Deputy CEO & Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Kasun Herath, Deputy CEO & Head of Corporate Banking, Mr. Mahmud Hossain, and the entire management committee underscored the bank's strong commitment to long-term investment in Bangladesh and its strategic vision for the future of its operations in the country. The event was also attended by two distinguished members of CBC's Board of Directors, Mr. Nimal Fernando and Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe.

"The CBC Business Conclave 2025 has been a remarkable success, further affirming Bangladesh's immense potential," said Mr. Muhseen. "The dialogue and partnerships formed here will be vital in advancing our initiatives in digital innovation and sustainable development. We are confident that through collaboration, we can strengthen local businesses and make a meaningful contribution to the nation's economic progress."

The event concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and a shared vision among attendees to drive innovation and support the robust growth of Bangladesh's financial sector. Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC looks forward to continuing its role as a key partner in the country's growth journey.



EXCELERATE ENERGY BANGLADESH LAUNCHES TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN MOHESHKHALI

Excelerate Energy Bangladesh Limited (EEBL) has expanded its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts with the launch of its **Tree Plantation Program 2025**, held at the Excelerate HOPE Hospital in Moheshkhali. The initiative is part of EEBL's broader commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and environmental protection in Bangladesh.

The program, inaugurated on September 3, 2025, was attended by senior officials, including **Ambassador (ret.) Peter Haas**, Strategic Advisor of Excelerate Energy; **Mr. Habib Bhuiyan**, Country Manager of EEBL; **Mr. Atiq Islam**, Finance Director; **Capt. Harunur Rashid**, Terminal Manager; and representatives from **Shakti Foundation and Hope Foundation**.



During the event, several indigenous and eco-friendly species such as **Kishnochura, Bokul, Hasnahena, Neem, Palm, Debdaru, Mango, and Jackfruit** were planted within the hospital premises to enhance greenery and community well-being.

Speaking at the program, **Ambassador (ret.) Peter Haas** emphasized the company's long-term vision: *"The planting of indigenous and eco-friendly species is symbolic. It demonstrates Excelerate Energy's commitment to put down local roots and to operate in an environmentally responsible manner."*

Mr. Habib Bhuiyan, Country Manager of EEBL, added:

"Excelerate Energy Bangladesh believes in creating long-term positive impacts, not only through energy solutions but also by protecting the environment and uplifting communities. This drive is another step towards a greener and healthier Moheshkhali."

Plantation Beyond the Hospital

In addition to the hospital plantation, Excelerate Energy carried out extensive tree-planting efforts at two other locations:

- **Zero Point, Moheshkhali: 5,150 saplings** of mangrove and pine trees were planted to strengthen coastal resilience and prevent erosion.
- **Dhalghatpara Government Primary School: 150 saplings** from seven species—including Debdaru, Mango, Jackfruit, Jam, Krishnochura, Guava, and Neem—were planted to promote a greener learning environment for children.

The plantation activities were supported by EEBL staff, including **Rakibul Hasan, Permitting Coordinator**, and **Anthony D'Cruze, Community Coordinator**.

Strengthening CSR in Bangladesh

The initiative highlights EEBL's growing role in advancing **corporate social responsibility** in Bangladesh. Beyond environmental projects, the company supports **healthcare access through Excelerate HOPE Hospital** and works with organizations such as **Shakti Foundation** and **Hope Foundation** to promote social development.

With the Tree Plantation Program 2025, EEBL has reaffirmed its commitment to **balancing energy development with environmental care**, while fostering goodwill among the communities it serves.



HSBC



READINESS FOR 2030: FINANCING BANGLADESH'S APPAREL DECARBONISATION

In the pursuit of a sustainable future, Bangladesh's apparel sector faces a formidable challenge: cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030. A new report from the **Apparel Impact Institute (Aii)**, with philanthropic support from HSBC, shows what this will take: **a requirement of an estimated USD 6.6 billion** in combined public, private, and concessional finance - a figure that underscores both the scale of the commitment and the magnitude of the investment.

The report also identified a **USD 4.8 billion financing gap** - which demands blended capital and a multistakeholder approach. International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), have already pledged over USD 1.6 billion, but private entities, private capital and local banks must scale up concessional lending, guarantees, and project finance. Significant progress is already visible through key reforms, yet further enablers are needed to unlock the full potential of renewable energy. Net Metering rules for industrial consumers now allow factories to install rooftop solar panels and sell excess electricity back to the grid, creating a strong financial incentive for renewable energy. In addition, a pilot Merchant Power Policy pilot, supported by IFC, enables factories to purchase renewable power directly from independent producers, bypassing traditional utilities and lowering costs.



Bangladesh Bank has also signaled strong support through its **Sustainable Finance Policy**, which requires banks and financial institutions to allocate a share of lending to green and ESG-aligned initiatives. The central bank provides low-cost refinance schemes and funds for green products and technology upgrades, helping reduce financial barriers for factories undertaking decarbonisation.

The report highlighted opportunities to enhance financing mechanisms for the 2030 transition. Expanding access to affordable capital through concessional loans, innovative blended-finance models, and dedicated green funds can empower suppliers to develop bankable renewable energy and rooftop solar projects. Strengthening technical expertise and offering practical guidance will further support suppliers in preparing robust proposals and scaling renewable energy generation, regulatory innovation, and financing options. These positive steps will help ensure widespread adoption and long-term sustainability.

Bridging the gap demands a coordinated **call to action** across the industry. The industry must mobilize blended finance combining public, private, and concessional capital to reduce investor risk. Long-term buyer commitments can give suppliers the confidence to invest in decarbonization. Policymakers should accelerate enabling measures that streamline project approvals, expand incentives, and remove import barriers for green technologies. Multi-stakeholder platforms can help avoid fragmentation and channel funding toward high-impact projects. Key national and international funds such as the Technology Development and Upgradation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and the Green Transformation Fund should be utilised and followed through extensive monitoring.

By addressing these challenges and building on recent progress, Bangladesh's apparel sector can transform a significant financial hurdle into an opportunity for global leadership in sustainable manufacturing. With the right mix of financing, policy support, and industry collaboration, the sector has the potential not only to meet its 2030 targets, but also to set a precedent for other manufacturing hubs worldwide.

To read the full report, scan -





INSEE CEMENT ESTABLISHES FIRST-EVER SCIENCE LAB FOR CHARITY-BASED SCHOOL

INSEE Cement is proud to extend its support to Rowshan-Ferdous Girls School and College in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, by donating modern laboratory equipment and inaugurating the institution's first-ever science laboratory. This initiative marks a historic milestone for the school and its community, as it opens the door for female students to pursue Science at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level, an opportunity that was once unattainable due to the absence of proper laboratory facilities.



For decades, bright young girls in this remote region have faced systemic barriers in accessing quality education, often being compelled to forgo science studies because of infrastructure gaps. By providing access to a functional and fully equipped lab, INSEE Cement aims to nurture curiosity, critical thinking, and innovation among these students, giving them a fair chance to compete with their peers in urban centers.



Education, especially in STEM, is one of the most powerful tools for breaking cycles of poverty and empowering the next generation of leaders. Through this effort, INSEE Cement demonstrates its commitment to corporate social responsibility and its vision of building a more inclusive and sustainable future. Beyond infrastructure, the initiative symbolizes hope it tells young girls that their dreams are valid, their aspirations matter, and that the community stands behind their journey.

This is a small yet meaningful step by INSEE Cement to create opportunities in education, uplift underprivileged female students in rural Bangladesh, and help them build a brighter, more promising future for themselves and their communities.



LAFARGEHOLCIM HOSTS “AGGREGATES KEY PARTNERS’ MEET 2025” IN DHAKA

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC. (LHB) successfully hosted the Aggregates Key Partners' Meet 2025 at Le Meridien, Dhaka, bringing together its valued partners to celebrate a journey of collaboration, achievements and future aspirations in the Aggregates Business of Bangladesh.



The grand event, held on Saturday, 13th September 2025, honored twelve partners for their outstanding performance in 2024. The awardees included Crown Cement PLC, Premier Cement Mills Ltd, Aman Cement Mills Ltd, M/S Amir Engineering Corporation, Nation Tech Communications Limited, Hego Mir Akhter Joint Venture Ltd, ABC Building Products Ltd, Concord Ready Mix and Concrete, CDC Concrete Ltd, M/S Riashad Stone Processing Plant, M/S Juhan Construction, and M/S Bhai Bhai Enterprise. The evening was further enriched with a vibrant cultural program, creating a memorable celebration of collaboration, achievement, and shared progress.

Reflecting on the occasion, Mohammad Iqbal Chowdhury, Chief Executive Officer of LHB, said “The Aggregates Key Partners' Meet 2025 was a celebration of our shared success. Our journey in Aggregates has been made possible by the trust and contributions of our partners and together we have set new benchmarks of growth. This event reaffirmed our collective commitment to building a stronger, sustainable future for the building material

industry. We have received an overwhelming response from our customers, which has encouraged us to actively consider expanding our Aggregates project in the near future.”

Sharing his thoughts, Neel Azevedo, Business Development Director of LHB, added “We are truly grateful for the dedication and support of our partners. Their contribution has been integral to the success of LHB’s Aggregates Business in Bangladesh. This gathering was not only about celebrating past achievements but also about strengthening the bonds that will drive us to the next level of growth.”



The owner of M/S Amir Engineering Corporation has expressed his satisfaction, sharing that they can now access high-quality Aggregates with ease and reliability. They value the consistency of the product quality, the convenience of local sourcing and the assurance that it meets international standards helping them in reducing dependency on imports while saving both time and cost.

The event underscored LafargeHolcim's vision of growing together with its partners, while reinforcing its position as a leader in sustainable building material solutions in Bangladesh.

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh (LHB) sources world-class limestone the basic raw material for Aggregates from its own quarry in Meghalaya, India. This high-quality limestone is transported seamlessly across the border through a 17-kilometer-long belt conveyor, directly to LHB's integrated building material plant in Chhatak. With an investment of USD

9 million, LHB has set up a state-of-the-art Aggregates manufacturing plant within the premises of its Chhatak plant. At present, Bangladesh imports nearly 50 million tons of Aggregates annually. By producing clear-sized graded Aggregates locally, LHB is not only ensuring production of world class quality Aggregates but also supporting the Government's efforts to save a significant amount of foreign currency for the country.



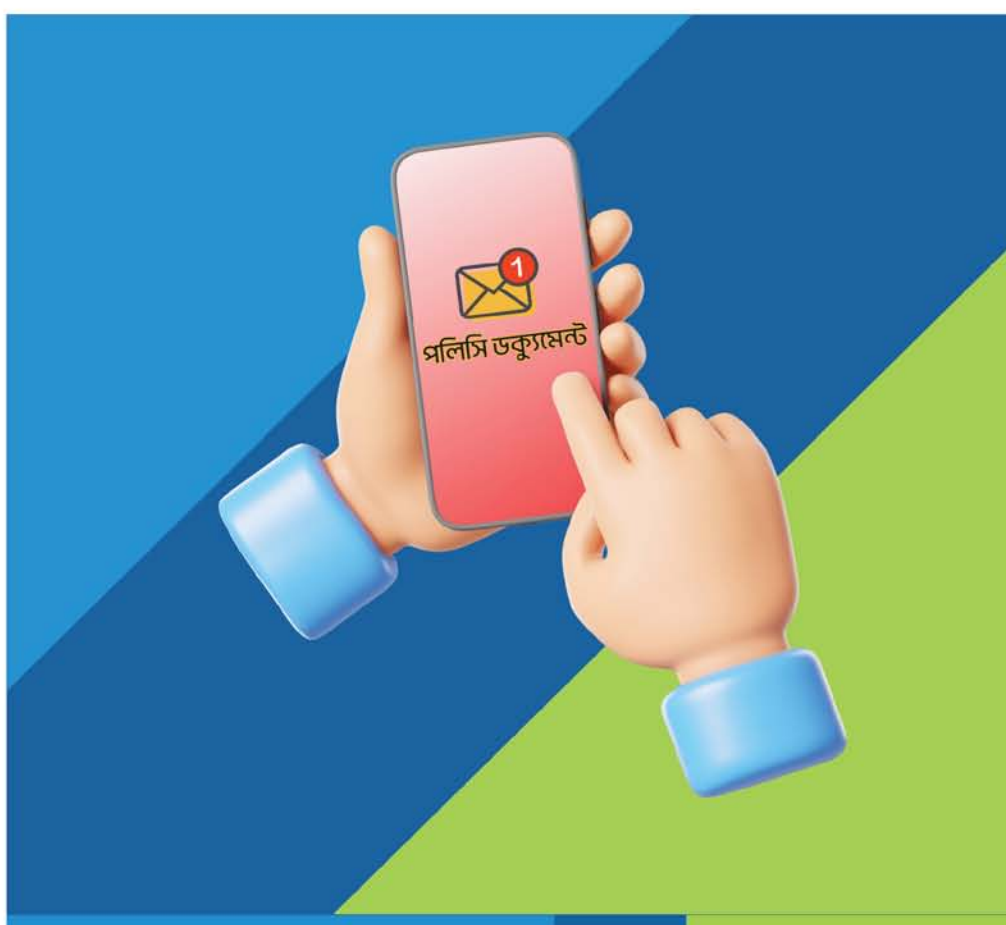


METLIFE BANGLADESH LAUNCHES 24-HOUR DIGITAL INSURANCE POLICY DOCUMENT ISSUANCE

MetLife Bangladesh customers will now be able to receive their digital insurance policy documents within just 24 hours of submitting policy applications, subject to meeting all requirements.

This initiative sets a new standard for customer-centric innovation in the insurance sector.

Traditionally, after a customer's application goes through the risk assessment process, policy documents were delivered in paper format which takes a few days. With this innovation, MetLife customers will now receive a digital copy of their policy document directly to their email within 24 hours, significantly improving speed, convenience, and accessibility. Alongside, they will also receive the paper copy.



The digital policy document contains the customer's filled-in application forms, details of the insurance policy, a personalized welcome letter and the terms and conditions. Just like other important financial documents, insurance policies need to be preserved for future use, and by adding a digital channel, MetLife is making it easier for customers to securely store their policies and have instant access to them whenever required.

MetLife is the leading international life insurer in Bangladesh, serving around 1 million over customers with a strong commitment to financial protection and innovation. Through its wide range of life insurance solutions and digital initiatives, MetLife continues to play a pioneering role in advancing financial security and trust in the country.



BANGLADESH ENTERS A NEW ERA OF SPEED WITH COUNTRY'S FIRST ROBI 5G

Robi Axiata PLC. has become the first operator in Bangladesh to officially launch commercial 5G services on the 1st of September. This marks a new milestone in the country's telecommunications sector. The formal launch took place at Robi's corporate office in Dhaka.

The launch of 5G marks the beginning of a new chapter in Bangladesh's digital transformation. With its high-speed bandwidth, ultra-low latency, and massive device connectivity, 5G will unlock opportunities across emerging fields such as smart cities, telemedicine, augmented and virtual reality, and cloud gaming.



Special Assistant to the Hon'ble Chief Adviser for the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, BTRC Chairman Major General (retd.) Md Emdad ul Bari, Shish Haider Chowdhury, ndc, Secretary ICT Division, BTRC Commissioner, Spectrum Management, Mahmud Hossain, Director General, Spectrum Management, Brig. Gen. Md. Aminul Hoque, Director General, Engineering and Operations, Brig. Gen. Shafiul Azam Parvez, M. Riyaaz Rasheed, Acting CEO of Robi Axiata PLC., Robi's Chief Commercial Officer, Shihab Ahmad, Chief Corporate and Regulatory Officer, Shahed Alam along with other high officials were present at the launching program.



PEPSODENT FREE DENTAL CAMP 2025 ELEVATING ORAL HEALTH THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

At Unilever, we believe oral hygiene is essential for people of all ages. Pepsodent is committed to unleashing the power of healthy smiles by working to eradicate oral disease through education, awareness, and access to quality dental care.

For more than 25 years, Pepsodent has partnered with the Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS) to foster better oral health nationwide, working tirelessly to bridge gaps in access to oral health, improve brushing habits, and deliver preventive care. The Free Dental Camp builds on this enduring mission, reaching more than 824,000 people this year across the country with essential services and awareness.



A Legacy Rooted in Purpose

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), one in every two people worldwide are affected by oral diseases. For Bangladesh the risk is even higher due to limited dental access and rural challenges. Poor oral health not only threatens smiles but also heightens the risk of other illnesses and lowers self-esteem.

Since the 1990s, Pepsodent has been trying to address these gaps with pioneering initiatives—from the **Dentibus mobile dental chamber launched in 1998** to the **“Little Brush, Big Brush” school programme** and **Free Dental Camps** in partnership with BDS.



Over time, Free Dental Camps have emerged as one of the most impactful ways to extend oral care. By bringing certified dentists directly into communities, schools, and universities, Pepsodent ensures that preventive care becomes a lived reality rather than a distant ideal. Cumulatively, the initiative reached more than 1.8 million people in 2023 and 2024, making it one of the largest oral health outreach programmes in Bangladesh. At the heart of the initiative is partnership with BDS. The collaboration with BDS-certified dentists ensures clinical rigor, credibility, and professional accountability.

Free Dental Camp 2025

Pepsodent reached over 824,000 people nationwide, edging close to its 1-million target through the Pepsodent Free Dental Camp 2025. Across 855 camps, more than 3,037 BDS-certified dentists provided free check-ups, consultations, and toothpaste samples to encourage better brushing habits. The initiative deliberately balanced urban (40.5%) and rural (59.5%) populations across the country, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.



To ensure impact across all age groups, the campaign engaged people at multiple touchpoints including school, colleges and universities. This layered approach reflects Pepsodent's belief that good oral health begins early and continues across life stages. By reaching both children and adults, the programme builds healthier habits across communities.

Towards a Healthier Bangladesh

As part of Unilever's Growth Action Plan (GAP), this initiative reflects the company's enduring purpose of **"Brightening Everyday Life for All."** Through Pepsodent, UBL continues to turn its purpose into action by helping families across the nation build confidence through healthier smiles and better everyday hygiene.

FICCI ACTIVITIES

***OUR JOURNEY
WILL CONTINUE FOR
A MORE GLORIOUS
BANGLADESH***

***as we still have a long way to go
with many roads unexplored***

21ST BOARD MEETING OF FICCI

The 21st Board Meeting of FICCI took place on September 21, 2025, at the Oracle Office. The meeting was presided over by President Mr. Zaved Akhtar, with Senior Vice President Mr. Mr. Eric. M. Walker and other Board Members in attendance. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on strategic priorities and upcoming initiatives. The meeting reaffirmed FICCI's unwavering commitment to promoting a resilient and dynamic business environment in Bangladesh.



STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION ON NEW TRADE ORGANISATION ORDINANCE



FICCI Executive Director T. I. M. Nurul Kabir attended the Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting on the New Trade Organisation Ordinance at the Ministry of Commerce on 26 September. The meeting was presided over by Commerce Secretary Mr. Mahbubur Rahman.

BSTI HOSTS CONSULTATION MEETING



FICCI Executive Director Mr. T I M Nurul Kabir attended a consultation meeting at the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) office on 28 September 2025. The meeting was presided over by Mr. S. M. Ferdous Alam, Director General of BSTI.

CONSULTATION MEETING ON DRAFT NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY 2025



A consultation meeting on the proposed National Logistics Policy 2025 was held on 29th September 2025 at the Chief Adviser's Office, chaired by Mr. M. Saifullah Panna, Secretary of the Chief Adviser's Office. Mr. Md. Miarul Haque, Member of the FICCI Board of Directors, and Executive Director Mr. T. I. M. Nurul Kabir attended on behalf of FICCI, along with representatives from other chambers and stakeholders, to discuss strategic priorities and share valuable views and inputs on the National Logistics Policy. The Secretary, CAO assured full support from the Government to this important sector.



FICCI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETS JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS



Mr. T. I. M. Nurul Kabir, Executive Director of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), met with Mr. Manabu Sugawara, Country Head of Marubeni Corporation Bangladesh, and Mr. Hiroshi Uegaki, Board Director of FICCI and General Manager of Mitsubishi Corporation Dhaka Branch.

The discussion focused on strengthening collaboration between FICCI and Japanese corporations and exploring opportunities to enhance Japanese investment and business engagement in Bangladesh.

FICCI, COMPETITION COMMISSION HOLD CONSULTATION ON COMPETITION ACT, 2012



The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) today hosted a consultation session titled "Competition Act 2012 and the Functions of the Bangladesh Competition Commission" at its conference hall.

The session was chaired by FICCI President Zaved Akhtar, with Bangladesh Competition Commission Chairperson A.H.M. Ahsan as the chief guest. Also in attendance were FICCI Board Member Sumitava Basu, senior Commission officials, and representatives from FICCI's member companies.



Addressing the event, A.H.M. Ahsan underlined the importance of the law in strengthening market fairness. "The Competition Act is a cornerstone for a healthy free-market economy. Enacted in 2012, it empowers the Commission to curb cartels and syndicates, protect consumer interests, and foster investment. Effective enforcement will encourage innovation, create jobs, and drive sustainable economic growth," he noted.

In his remarks, FICCI President Zaved Akhtar reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to fair business practices. "FICCI represents nearly 200 leading companies from 35 countries across 21 sectors. Our members believe in fair competition and a level playing field. We want a strong and effective law that protects both industry and consumers, while ensuring regulations do not unintentionally hinder business growth," he said.



Moderated by FICCI Executive Director T.I.M. Nurul Kabir, the session featured constructive inputs from officials of the Competition Commission and representatives of FICCI member companies, who shared their thoughtful views on the implementation and possible amendments of the law.



FICCI SIGNS MOU WITH MIND MAPPER FOR FICCI LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has entered into a partnership with Mind Mapper Bangladesh (MMB) to deliver leadership development programs under its flagship initiative, the FICCI Leadership Academy.

The MoU was signed today at the FICCI office by Ala Uddin Ahmad, Member of FICCI Board of Directors, and Ejazur Rahman, CEO of ISCEA Asia and Managing Director & Lead Coach of Mind Mapper Bangladesh, on behalf of their respective organizations.

Through this partnership, Mind Mapper Bangladesh will serve as FICCI's knowledge partner, helping design and deliver customized, and future-focused trainings that address market skill gaps and bring forward high-demand topics that equips Bangladesh's workforce with the skills and insights needed to thrive in today's dynamic business landscape.

Speaking at the event, Ala Uddin Ahmad stated "This partnership will enable FICCI to deliver rich and tailored learning and development programs for professionals and aspiring leaders. Wider corporate and business communities will also benefit from the knowledge and experience of industry leaders including senior executives of FICCI member companies apart from expert trainers. FICCI aims to harness the power of global best practices and expertise to strengthen the human capital of Bangladesh."



"The FICCI Leadership Academy reflects our commitment to building future-ready leaders in Bangladesh. Through this initiative, we aim to bridge skill gaps, inspire innovation, and empower professionals to thrive in a rapidly evolving business world," added Rubaba Dowla, Member of the FICCI Board of Directors.

Sharing his excitement, Ejazur Rahman remarked, "This partnership opens an exciting new chapter for us. It's about combining

strengths to create real impact for professionals and organizations in Bangladesh and beyond. We couldn't be more thrilled to take this journey together."

The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from both FICCI and Mind Mapper Bangladesh.

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS FICCI OFFICE



The Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, H.E. Antonio Alessandro, visited the FICCI office accompanied by an official from the Economic Section of the Embassy. FICCI President Mr. Zaved Akhtar warmly welcomed the Ambassador. During the meeting, they discussed Bangladesh's trade and business environment and explored future opportunities for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

FAROOQ SOBHAN VISITS FICCI OFFICE



Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, Former Diplomat and Distinguished Fellow & Board Member of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), visited the FICCI office and met with the FICCI President Mr. Zaved Akhtar. During the meeting, he commended FICCI's initiatives and its continued efforts to promote foreign investment and foster private sector development in Bangladesh.

ROBI APPOINTS ZIAD SHATARA AS MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO



Mr. Ziad Shatara
Managing Director and CEO
Robi Axiata PLC.



With over 30 years of experience in steering telecommunications businesses across diverse markets—including Jordan, Italy, Bangladesh, and Cambodia—Ziad brings a wealth of expertise in driving innovation, commercial excellence, and technology-led transformation across mobile, broadband, and fixed-line services.

A seasoned telecom leader and transformation architect, Ziad has a proven ability to scale operations, modernize businesses, and reimagine growth strategies in dynamic, high-potential markets. His deep expertise spans information technology, customer experience, and retail operations.

Ziad has held key leadership roles in multiple global communications and technology companies, where he consistently delivered sustainable growth and operational excellence. He was the Chief Technology Officer at Wind Telecommunications in Italy before becoming the Chief Executive Officer of Banglalink Digital Communications Ltd. in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He spent seven years as the Chief Executive Officer of Jordan's leading mobile network provider, Umniah, before joining Smart Axiata of Cambodia, where he was instrumental in driving organizational transformation and building high-performing team that sustainably delivered stellar financial performance. Ziad joined Robi Axiata PLC. as the company's Managing Director and CEO on 1st September, 2025.

Ziad holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Computer Engineering from the Technical University of Budapest, Hungary.

TANZEEN ALAM, LEADING EMAMI BANGLADESH PVT. LTD. AS COUNTRY HEAD



Mr. Tanzeen Alam
Country Head
Emami Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd.



Tanzeen Ferdous Alam is a seasoned business leader with 20+ years of experience in FMCG, logistics, and emerging industries. He is currently the Country Head for Emami Bangladesh and Southeast Asia, a leading beauty and personal care company.

He began his career at Unilever Bangladesh, spending nearly two decades and rising to Marketing Director, where he shaped some of the country's most iconic brands. He later served as Chief Marketing Officer at Berger Paints Bangladesh, driving growth and brand transformation, and in 2024 became CEO of Delhivery Bangladesh, where he led automation, data analytics, and digital transformation in logistics.

An entrepreneur and investor, Tanzeen co-founded ventures including iKORI, an ed-tech platform that upskills Bangladeshi youth and migrant workers through digital training. Passionate about purpose-driven leadership, skills development, and global competitiveness, he continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Bangladesh's corporate and entrepreneurial landscape.



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FICCI MAJESTIC NIGHT 2025

A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION & INSPIRATION

As one of the signature events of FICCI, the **Majestic Night 2025** stands as one of the most anticipated evenings of the year- an extraordinary celebration of leadership, innovation, and the collective spirit that drives Bangladesh's business community forward. This grand event promises to bring together top CEOs, policymakers, diplomats, and industry trailblazers under one glittering roof.

More than just a celebration, the Majestic Night is a testament to collaboration and progress. With a vibrant blend of recognition, networking, and cultural splendor, the evening encapsulates the values that define FICCI – unity, vision, and forward momentum.

Title: FICCI Majestic Night 2025

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025

Time: 06:00 PM onwards

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Dhaka

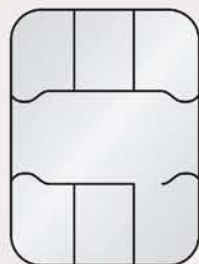
This year's **Majestic Night** will also feature the much-awaited **FICCI Sustainability & Innovation Awards 2025**, honoring exceptional companies and leaders who have pioneered sustainable business practices, fostered inclusivity, and championed innovation. From green technologies to groundbreaking DEI initiatives, the awards will spotlight those who are setting new benchmarks in responsible leadership.

Beyond the awards, guests can expect an enchanting evening of cross-cultural performances, exquisite dining, and engaging conversations with some of the most dynamic minds in business and policy from native and global industries.

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