

Introduction

‘Bangladesh Economic Review’ is a regular publication of the Government. The Bangla version of the Review published as one of the background documents of the national budget is presented before the Parliament. The document reflects the current status of the socio-economic prosperity of the country together with analysis of data/statistics on macroeconomic fundamentals. The Bangla version covers data up to March of the fiscal year. In the English version of the Review, relevant data and information of FY 2013-14 have been updated up to June 2014, where possible.

2. The Review incorporates fifteen chapters and sixty-three statistical appendices. Chapter one contains a brief review of the macroeconomic situation of the country. Chapters two to six incorporate an assessment of the country’s macroeconomic fundamentals like GDP, savings and investments, price, wages and employment, fiscal and monetary management. In the sector-specific chapters, development in major sectors like agriculture, industry, power and energy, transport and communication and human resource have been reviewed. Chapter thirteen and fourteen, focusing on the thrust sectors of the economy, present a brief account of the initiatives of the Government towards poverty reduction and private sector development respectively. Chapter fifteen briefly reviews Government initiatives to maintain environmental balance by containing environmental pollution. Time series data on macroeconomic and social indicators have been presented in the statistical appendices. Due care has been taken to make the review reader-friendly.

3. Economic Adviser’s Wing of the Finance Division is responsible for preparing the Review. I would, therefore, like to place on record my heartfelt thanks to all the officials of the Economic Adviser’s Wing for their relentless efforts to bring out this publication. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the concerned Ministries/Divisions/Agencies for their sincere cooperation in providing inputs for this book.

4. This review has been published amidst various limitations. There might, therefore, be some unintentional errors in the publication. I hope that the document will be useful to the policy makers, planners, economists, researchers, academicians and students. Suggestions and comments for further improvement of this publication will be much appreciated.

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