

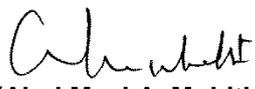
Preface

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in socio-economic sectors over the past few years. The Government, through its relentless efforts, is now being regarded as a role model of poverty alleviation. High level of inclusive growth across the globe is now being replicated in many countries. According to the preliminary estimate of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the country has achieved 7.24 percent growth in the current fiscal year which is the highest in the last three decades. Per capita income has risen to 1602 USD in the current fiscal year. Poverty and extreme poverty rates have come down to 23.2 and 12.9 percent respectively while life expectancy has gone up to 71.6 years. Current trend of economic development suggests that Bangladesh is well on track to be elevated to a developed country by 2041. To achieve these goals, we have taken an initiative to prepare 'Vision 2041' as a long term plan. High priority has been attached to implementation of UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) and a slew of steps have been taken towards attaining these goals. Strengthening the Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF) process will have a catalytic impact in achieving all the lofty goals of the Government.

The MTBF book is one of the core budget documents that contain the Ministry Budget Framework (MBF) of 62 ministries/divisions. Mission statements, strategic objectives, major functions, activities, impact on poverty reduction & women advancement, recent achievements as well as performance related information of all these ministries/divisions are presented in this book in accordance with the templates provided by Finance Division. Researchers from home and abroad and general people at large can have an overview of the overall budget strategies of the government, the 7th Five Year Plan, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and so on from this book. Besides, linkages between planning documents, policies/strategies of concerned line ministries/divisions and other institutions as well as estimates and projections of two following years can also be tracked in minute details from this document. Moreover, a clear idea about the resources allocated and output and outcome achieved can also be formed.

In order to make MTBF more efficacious, and capture various data in more organized manner, new software Integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++) has been developed and put into operation. It was used, for the first time, in the preparation of FY 2016-17 Budget. Implementation of Budget Execution and Accounting Modules of iBAS++ has also been introduced. It will ensure more transparency in public expenditure. Moreover, as part of the ongoing reforms initiatives, government has already approved the new Budget & Accounts Classification System (BACS). I hope this new BACS can be implemented for preparation of FY 2018-19 budget. This will help enhance the overall efficiency in resource allocation and utilization which will, in turn, result in more transparency and accountability in public sector. Alongside, generation of reports from multiple perspectives will be possible.

I congratulate the officers of Finance Division and line ministries who have worked hard to gather and plough through all relevant materials for this publication. I wish this a wide readership.


(Abul Maal A. Muhith)
Minister
Ministry of Finance