

# Aligning Aspirations with Action: A Review of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's Development Vision and Election Manifesto

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**Abstract:** This paper critically reviews the “Policy Summit-2026” and “Election Manifesto” of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, focusing on how the party’s proposals align with public aspirations and long-term national development goals. The study explores key policy areas as themes such as, governance reform, economic growth, education, ICT development, and social welfare, assessing their feasibility within Bangladesh’s socio-political and economic context. Using a qualitative thematic analysis from only two official published documents were used in methodology. The study draws on Policy Framing Theory, Human Capital Theory and Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory to explore how Jamaat-e-Islami frames its proposals and positions itself in relation to national development. The findings reveal that while the party’s proposals resonate with public aspirations, they might face some implementation challenges due to institutional weaknesses, political resistance, and economic limitations. This paper contributes to the literature by analyzing how political manifestos in emerging economies balance idealistic goals with practical challenges in the pursuit of sustainable development of Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh, Development, Election Manifesto 2026, Jamaat-e-Islami, Social Welfare.

## 1. Introduction

The Jamaat-e-Islami is a prominent political party has played a major role in the politics of Bangladesh since its journey begins in 1941 (Islam, 2022). In the past, the party has sided with conservative Islamic ideologies and has tried to shape the policy orientation of Bangladesh in line with its ideological orientation. The Jamaat-e-Islami has over the years been featuring prominently in influencing debate over governance, social values and economic development in the country although its influence has been fluctuating because of political and ideological clashes (Islam et al., 2020). Previous literatures provide the Jamaat-e-Islami plans to address some of the most urgent needs in Bangladesh, such as reforms in governance, economic modernization, development of human capital, and digitization. Having the emphasis on establishing a just, equitable, and inclusive society, the party has introduced an extensive agenda which is to transform the socio-economic and political systems of the country. The 2026 election or the next can be a set-point to Jamaat-e-Islami since it will be aiming at cementing its position as an alternative to the ruling government as well as provide a developmental model that will capture the hearts of the population (Uddin and Bappi, 2026).

With Bangladesh in the delicate game of development, unemployment among the youth, economic disparity, and the politics of governance, the proposals of the party are aimed at predicting the national interests and priorities with the needs of the citizens, especially in terms of youth empowerment, social rights, and digitalization. The importance of such a development vision is both based on its correspondence to the ideological beliefs of Jamaat-e-Islami, as well as on the possibility to influence the future policy rhetoric of Bangladesh.

The main objective of the paper is the critical review of the “Policy Summit- 2026” of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and their “Election Manifesto” to evaluate how much the views of the party correlate with the national long-term developmental objectives and aspirations of the people. This study will discuss the ways that policies expressed in the official documents address issues affecting Bangladesh and their realism and practicality in the present socio-economic and political setting. Through the manifesto and policy summit, the paper aims at gaining an insight on whether the solutions that Jamaat-e-Islami aims at providing can hold any value to resolving the socio-economic challenges of Bangladesh such as poverty, unemployment amongst youth, education, and governance reform.

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Another area that the paper has been addressed is the rhetorical framing of the policies brought forward by Jamaat-e-Islami, here, how the party frames the problems and solutions, and how the policy narrative will appeal to the general sentiment in the population. In this way, this paper critically evaluates the development vision outlined by Jamaat-e-Islami as a realistic and practical program that is capable of becoming the way to go and help formulate the future of Bangladesh and fulfill the needs of its population. Through the critical review, the paper will provide an insightful discussion as to whether the development agenda of Jamaat-e-Islami can result in a sustainable future of Bangladesh.

## 2. Theoretical Underpinnings

Policy Framing, Human Capital and the Maslow's Hierarchy Need theories provide the useful insights into the way the policy suggestions of the party are formulated, how they are directed to meeting the needs of the population, and whether they resonate with socio-economic objectives of the country.

**Policy Framing Theory**-According to the Policy Framing Theory (Fischer, 2003), policy documents are not simply solutions but they are, in fact, determinations of the issues that they are intended to solve (Brooks, 2012). This theory is essential to the interpretation of the issues like unemployment of the youth, poverty and inefficiency of governance as discussed by Jamaat-e-Islami. The manner in which the party frames these issues is what determines how the masses will understand them and the solutions to the same. With youth unemployment as an example, the party presents the problem of the lack of alignment between education and the needs of the labor market as the cause, suggesting education reforms, skills development, and the creation of new jobs as the solutions. Such framing is instrumental in the perception of the electorate of the realism and effectiveness of the proposals of the party (Koon et al., 2016).

**Human Capital Theory**-According to Human Capital Theory (Becker, 1975 and Teixeira, 2010) investment in education, skills and healthcare is essential to enhance productivity and economic growth. The manifesto of Jamaat-e-Islami lays a lot of stress on reforming education and empowering the youth as one of its long-term growth policies. The skills development, entrepreneurship or graduate support is meant to open the economic potential of the youth, the largest group of population of Bangladesh (Rahman et al., 2021). These policies are meant to improve human capital and hence poverty reduction and the increase in socio-economic mobility (Chantarat et al., 2012). The fact that the manifesto gives focused attention to healthcare reiterates the significance of well-being in achieving a productive workforce.

**Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs**-The analysis of the ways in which the policies of the manifesto are fulfilled by the basic needs of the population is conducted with the help of the Hierarchy of Needs introduced (Maslow, 1987), especially in such spheres as healthcare, education, and social security in Bangladesh (Chowdhury et al., 2023). The basic needs, according to Maslow, which include safety (sociological security), physiological needs (medical care and treatment) and belongingness (inclusive economic opportunities), need to be addressed before a higher-level need of self-actualization (entrepreneurship and career development) can be achieved (Liu et al., 2025). By providing universal healthcare, social protection systems and reform in the education, the party vision focuses on satisfying these basic needs and providing a platform on which people can attain economic prosperity and personal development (Omweri, 2024).

## 3. Framework of the study

The three theoretical perspectives, when combined, offer a multi-dimensional concept of the vision of developing Jamaat-e-Islami. The Policy Framing Theory assists in understanding how the party presents social issues and the manner through which it packages its solutions in a manner that appeals to the voters. The Human Capital Theory explains how education and investment in skills can result in a better work force, and the Hierarchy of Needs allows one to think of how the party preoccupation with basic human needs is a step toward social and economic mobility. To evaluate the policies of the party critically, these theories enable one to assess whether the political aspirations of the people are not just being met by the policies of the party, but also the policies are geared towards the national development in the long run. They assist in examining how the party attempts to address the socio-economic issues faced by Bangladesh and how practical the suggestions are considering the institutional capacity and political reality of the country.

## 4. Methodology

In this paper, a qualitative approach to document analysis is followed to critically evaluate the "Policy Summit-2026" and "Election Manifesto" that was issued by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. Since the research is conducted on the topic of policy summit proposal and development vision, the most relevant approach is document analysis because it will allow exploring the content and discussion of the texts in detail (Dalglish et al., 2020). The study seeks to de-construct the themes of policy, priorities of development, and rhetorical strategies of the party by looking at these two published official documents.

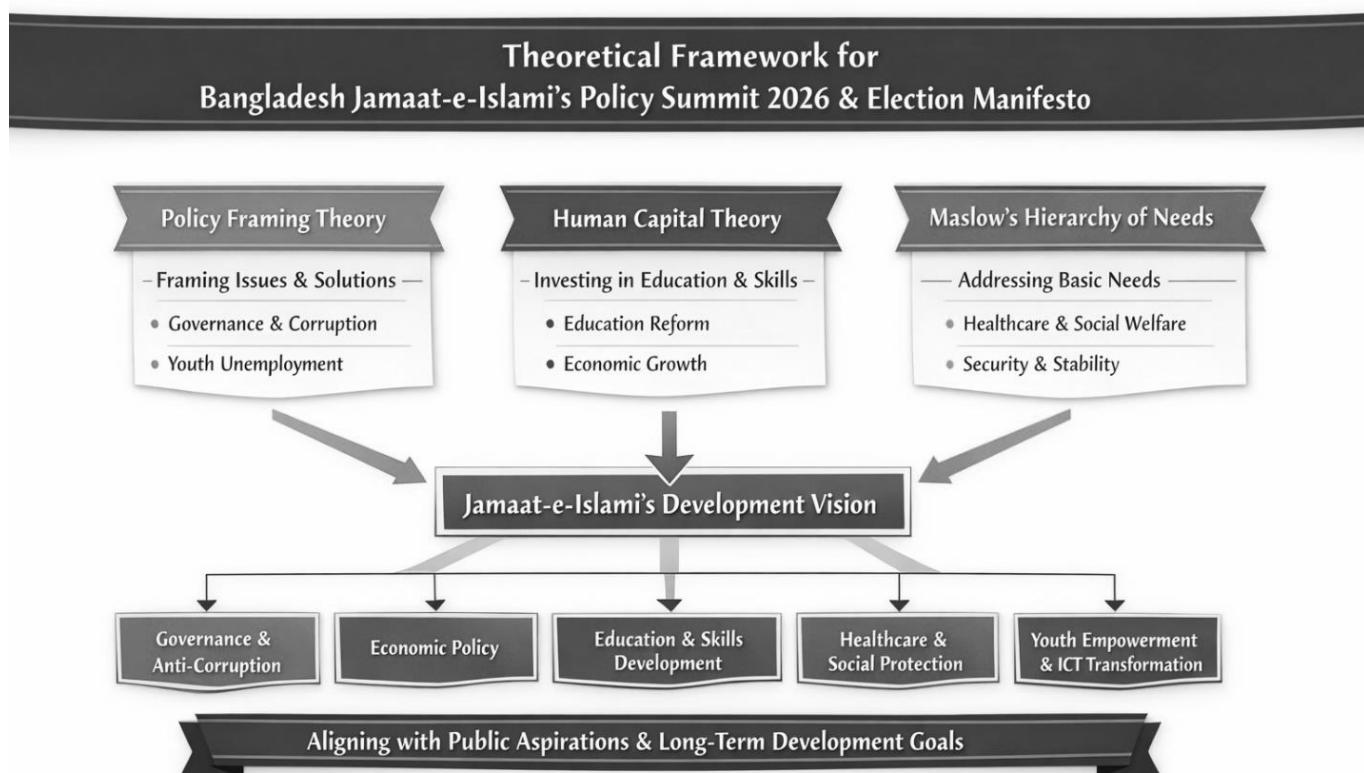
**Data Sources**- The main sources of analysis, in this case, are the official printed documents of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, namely- "Policy Summit 2026" and official "Election Manifesto-2026" document is the long-term vision of the party on the development of the country and includes such issues as governance change, human capital development, ICT transformation, youth empowerment. "Election Manifesto- 2026" provides detailed policy promises of the forthcoming parliamentary elections, which encompass the strategic objectives of the party, policy plans, and priority activities of the party at the next term of ruling. The two documents offer an overview of the political agenda of the party and how they are going to deal with the national issues.

**Approach**- The thematic qualitative content analysis is used in the analysis. The essence is to locate, discuss, and examine the main themes in the policy documents. The approach is best applicable in the analysis of the placement of the party in different socio-political and economic matters.

### Step 1: Familiarization with the Documents

The initial part of the analysis process is a careful reading of the two documents so as to familiarize with the structure, language and major policy propositions of the documents. This step makes sure the researcher will have a clue on the purpose and tone of the documents, including the rhetoric decisions which are taken to attract the electorate.

**Fig 1.** Research Framework.



Authors' own Creation.

### Step 2: Thematic Coding

During this stage, the documents are assigned codes in regards to thematic areas that demonstrate the major focuses of the "Policy Summit- 2026" and the "Election Manifesto". All of the themes are developed in detail to find the policy objectives, rhetoric framing, and solutions. The following questions are the guiding questions to the analysis- What policies are being proposed- in each thematic area? What are the formulations of these policies as far as national priorities and aspirations of the people are concerned? What is the realistic ness of the proposals considering the historical and social-economic background of Bangladesh?

### Step 3: Contextualization and Comparison

After defining the thematic codes, researcher determine the context in which the policies are placed in larger Bangladeshi socio-political context. This involves looking into the historical development path of the country, and its present socio-economic challenges as well as hopes of the Bangladeshi people, particularly in issues such as unemployment among the youth, access to education and governance reform. It is in this contextualization that the researcher can determine whether the policy proposals are in line with realistic expectations and needs of the people. Also, the documents will be compared with global development paradigms, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and development priorities of the world bank to determine whether the policy proposals align with global trends in governance, education, health, and economic development.

### Step 4: Critical Analysis

The last process is the critical analysis of the documents in order to establish the viability of the proposed policies. This involves checking on the possible institutional limitations, difficulties in implementing the policy and missing links in the policies to attain their intended objectives. The viability of such policies in the past especially in Bangladesh and other upcoming economies is also taken into account to determine whether the goals as stipulated in the manifesto are realistic within the present political and economic environment.

## 5. Data Analysis Techniques

The analysis of the data is categorized; *thematically analysis*- identification of major themes in the policy documents and categorization in order to construct a coherent framework of understanding the proposed policies. Then, *discourse analysis*- The words and framing of the policy proposals are also examined to know how the party tries to win the support of people and develop legitimacy of its vision. Lastly, *comparison analysis*- the policies in the documents are benchmarked with the current development

problems in Bangladesh, the historical background and the popular opinion to determine the possibility of their effectiveness. Although the research work is founded on the qualitative analysis of documents, it also has its limitations- the research has been conducted using only the “Policy Summit- 2026” and the “Election Manifesto” without referring to the outside interviews, media coverage, and views of policy analysts. This restricts the analytical scope to the opinions expressed by Jamaat-e-Islami party. Just like any other qualitative research, the interpretation of the rhetoric and policy suggestions in the documents is subjective. Nevertheless, they do their best to base the analysis on the developed development theories and comparative frameworks to have the balanced perspective.

## 6. Findings of the Study

The study reports the explicit results of the work on the analysis of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami “Policy Summit- 2026” and “Election Manifesto”. The thematic content analysis is implemented in the frames of the Policy Framing Theory and the Human Capital Theory with Maslow’s Hierarchy of Need Theory to investigate the main themes that are introduced in both texts. The themes are each explored in connection with policy development proposals, rhetorical formulations and how they fit into the aspirations of the people, and the situation of developing Bangladesh.

### Theme-1: Governance and Economic Policy

#### *Policy Goals*

Policy Summit 2026 and the Election Manifesto both focus on governance reform as the main development agenda of the party. One of the biggest targets is to ensure that the state becomes corruption free by reforming the institution and adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption. A policy of fiscal rationalization, which involves the figure of taxation and value added tax (VAT) reduction and slowly, is also presented in the manifesto as a way of boosting economic development through encouraging investments in the private sector (Eriksen et al., 2017). The other important factor is the suggestion to improve the policies that are business-friendly with an emphasis on the simplification of the licensing procedure and increasing the predictability of regulations in order to create a more welcoming and entrepreneurial economy (Abraham et al., 2024).

#### *Rhetorical Framing*

The conceptualization of the governance is oriented to the reestablishment of the public confidence and the resolution of old problems of corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency. Zero-tolerance approach to corruption is not only brought out as a moral requirement but also as an economic one to enhance investment confidence and economic efficiency (Gong et al., 2013). This framing makes the ethical governance as the foundation of the national progress, in order to motivate the citizens to trust and have their legitimacy in the political system (MIKHNO, 2024).

#### *Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations*

The governance policy of the manifesto reflects well with the desires of the masses to have good governance and transparency. Nonetheless, the viability of these such far-reaching reforms is doubtful, especially considering the weaknesses of the institutions in Bangladesh and the issues of the past in terms of governance. Though the policy summit is conceptualized in aspirational terms, institutional fragmentation and political turnover may be major challenges in attaining these reforms.

### Theme-2: Education and Development of Human capital

#### *Policy Goals*

In the manifesto and policy summit, much attention has been given to education reform as a national development driver. There are such initiatives that are put forward like provision of graduates with interest free loans to close the gap between education and employment, creation of world universities and strengthening accessibility of global education among poor students. The suggestion that there should be a universal system of education and subsidies of technical training is meant to equip the workforce to meet the set demands of the knowledge-based economy. Also in the manifesto, there are policies of allocating more funds in schools and enhancing quality of teaching in every school.

#### *Rhetorical Framing*

Education is not just discussed as an economic need to develop human resource but also as a moral need to attain social mobility (Brown, 2017). The rhetoric of the party emphasizes on inclusive education to meet the needs of the disadvantaged especially the rural poor, women and ethnic minorities (Heckman et al., 2014). With the connection between education and the goals of the national development, Jamaat-e-Islami makes it one of the primary instruments of the societal empowerment and prosperity.

#### *Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations*

This focus on education concurs well with the desires of the people to have improved access to education and to generate job opportunity by developing skills. The policy propositions are however progressive but the systemic issues like allocation of resources, disparities in education system and the skills gap between graduates and labor market demands still stand out as a big problem. The institutional support and significant investment in the education infrastructure is necessary to make the proposed reforms feasible in the current political and economic climate (Brown et al., 2013).

### Theme-3: Health and Social Protection

#### *Policy Goals*

The universal healthcare that is included in the manifesto is a basic right, and the healthcare coverage of children under five years old and elderly citizens (above 60 years old) is planned to be extended. One of the elements in the policy is the “First Thousand Days Program which will help in enhancing the maternal health and nutrition in early childhood as an extension of an overall strategy of establishing a healthy and productive population. Another proposal made in the policy summit is to expand healthcare facilities in the district level, whereby specialized hospitals can be reached by all districts.

### **Rhetorical Framing**

The healthcare proposal is put into a human capital development context, in which physical and mental health are important in economic productivity and social mobility. The rhetoric of the party makes healthcare access an important investment in the future of the labor and economic foreseeability of Bangladesh. The first thousand days program is brought out as an affordable and preventive measure that will have a long-term payoff in the health of the population and the economic development of the country.

### **Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations**

The emphasis on healthcare has echoed the hopes of the population to have increased access to medical services and in rural areas in particular. (Joarder, 2019). Nevertheless, the ability to achieve universal healthcare is a problem particularly considering the existing healthcare systems in Bangladesh, financial limitations and the regional differences in the provision of healthcare. The idea of decentralization of healthcare services and geographic equity of the access to medical facilities is ambitious, yet essential towards fixing the loopholes of the existing system (Bloom, 2018).

## **Theme-4: Young Employment and Empowerment**

### **Policy Goals**

The youth are central to the development vision of the manifesto developed in the form of policies to empower the youth by offering market-oriented skills training, entrepreneurship support and job placement systems. It is proposed to have a “District Job Youth Bank” which will match jobs as well where the goal is to offer 5 million jobs in the next five years. Also, there are plans that will establish 500,000 entrepreneurs with marginalized groups, particularly women and the youth being given priority.

### **Rhetorical Framing**

Youth is positioned as the most important asset of the future of Bangladesh and rhetoric used by the party stresses on the aspect of empowerment and involvement (Adams et al., 2010). The policy proposals are put forward as both an economic need and a social justice concern with job creation and acquisition of skills playing a critical role in ensuring sustainable development. The entrepreneurial support project is placed as a means of exploiting the creative potential of the youth as well as solving inefficiencies in the formal labor market.

### **Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations**

Unemployment of the youths is still a significant issue facing the Bangladeshi community and the concept of youth empowerment by the party is very timely (Hossain, 2010). Nevertheless, a large scale of job creation is extremely challenging especially in the context of economic constraints, institutional fragmentation and distortion in the labor market (Rahman et al., 2021). The idea of providing 5 million jobs is great, and its success will be provided by the proper coordination of the government and the players of the business world.

## **Theme-5: Information Technology and Digitalization**

### **Policy Goals**

Policy Summit 2026 is a vision of making Bangladesh a digital transformation nation, and changing it to a knowledge-based economy. This involves creating 2 million jobs in ICT by the year 2030, the introduction of National payment gateway to freelancers, and the encouragement of export of digital products. The measures are also reflected in the manifesto, which will make ICT infrastructure available throughout the country especially in the rural regions to build a more inclusive digital economy.

### **Rhetorical Framing**

ICT is positioned as access to diversification of the economy and competitiveness in the world. The rhetoric of the party focuses on the possibility of digital technologies to not only generate jobs but also revolutionize the old industries. Digital exports and outsourcing promotion is introduced as one of the objectives of placing Bangladesh in the global digital economy.

### **Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations**

The ICT policy plans are in line with the wish of the people to have economic modernization and technological advancement. Nevertheless, to be successful in implementing these policies, it will be necessary to invest heavily in digital infrastructure, education, and digital literacy. The possibility of developing 2 million ICT jobs is correlated with the presence of skilled workforce and the creation of an enabling digital environment.

## **Theme-6: Remittances and Diaspora Engagement**

### **Policy Goals**

The manifesto will also tap into remittances and the knowledge of the diaspora as one of the driving forces of national development. The party will strengthen knowledge transfer, technology sharing and capacity building in Bangladesh by motivating the back flow of talented expatriates and facilitating intellectual remittances. The proposed policy also includes policies that will help in streamlining the remittance channels and also make sure that remittances help in developing the national economy.

### **Rhetorical Framing**

The manner in which diasporas have been framed is centered on the role that expatriates played in the development of Bangladesh whether it is the financial remittances or knowledge transfer (Shahriar et al., 2020). The rhetoric of this party focuses on the underutilized potential of the Bangladeshi diaspora as an economic and institutional resource to be used in the national process of development and making them a force of change.

### **Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations**

Although the concept of using diaspora knowledge is quite innovative, it is not clear whether or not it is possible to connect with the diaspora to this extent. The problem of re-entry of expatriates and the possibility of their skills and knowledge to be used successfully in the institutional frameworks of Bangladesh are important (Karim, 2001).

## Theme-7: Social Protection and Welfare

### Policy Goals

The manifesto gives a lot of focus to the establishment of universal social security system that comprises of basic welfare of vulnerable groups. This encompasses pensions on the elderly citizens, elderly health care and welfare provisions on the disfavored groups. One of the programs is the First Thousand Days Program that aims to deal with early childhood nutrition, maternal health, and child development so as to break the poverty cycle.

### Rhetorical Framing

Social protection rhetoric in the party is laid on the principles of equity, inclusiveness, and social justice. Jamaat-e-Islami capitalizes on the welfare state to resonate with the need among people to have social protection and economic security especially to the vulnerable groups (Davis, 2001). The First Thousand Days Program has been positioned as the proactive program that aims at preventing the long-term socio-economic problems as opposed to responding to them.

### Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations

The social welfare policy proposals relate to the people having hopes of fairer social services and economic insecurity (Davis, 2002). Nonetheless, there are budgetary and institutional challenges that might arise in implementing universal social security especially in providing equitable coverage to rural and informal areas and sectors (Bitran, 2014). The proposals of the manifesto should address such problems as the allocation of resources and the possibilities of the administration to provide social protection to the target beneficiaries.

## Theme-8: Green Development Environmental Sustainability

### Policy Goals

The vision of the manifesto, which is named as Three Zero Vision, aims at zero environmental degradation, zero waste, and zero potential to be flooded through the promotion of green energy, waste management, and climate resilience. Sustainable urban planning, renewable energy and environmentally friendly industrialization are some of the elements of the vision of Bangladesh as an environmentally friendly country, as propounded by the party.

### Rhetorical Framing

Environmental sustainability has been framed as a moral duty and an imperative to development (Haque, 2000). The environment is highlighted in the manifesto, not only as a common good, but one of the crucial elements of economic development in the long run and population health. The Three Zero Vision is consistent with the global development discourse of climate change and environmental justice, and presents sustainability as part of the future development in Bangladesh.

### Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations

Environmental sustainability is in line with the increasing worry among people on climate change and environmental degradation. Nonetheless, adoption of a green development agenda implies that it would need huge investments in clean energy infrastructure, waste management system, and environmental governance. Since the country is prone to disaster caused by climatic conditions, the policies should be made to correspond to the realities in terms of financial ability and institutional preparedness.

## Theme-9: Democratic Governance and Political Stability

### Policy Goals

The democratic process is also heavily stressed in the manifesto as they supposed proportional representation, free and fair elections, and the bolstering of the caretaker form of government. The party also promises to deliver justice to violence perpetrated by states in the past and extrajudicial executions, which appeals to the objective of democratic governance and the protection of human rights.

### Rhetorical Framing

The discourse of democratic governance presents free and fair elections as a cornerstone of the democracy of Bangladesh and insistence on transparency and accountability of governance. The emphasis on justice to address past violations of human rights also goes hand in hand with the demands of transitional justice and accountability in the world.

### Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations

The desire by the people to have a more open electoral process and having more accountability in the governance are evident in the policies of the manifesto. Nevertheless, it may not be easy to accomplish such objectives in a politically polarized country. Political resistance, bureaucratic fragmentation and threat of political manipulation will have to be overcome to institutionalize the caretaker system and guarantee free and fair election.

## Theme-10: Economic Diversification and Industrialization

### Policy Goals

The policy documents are also a holistic approach towards industrialization, both on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and heavy industries. The manifesto also refers to the significance of the establishment of an investment-enabling environment, industrialization and job creation through diversification to non-traditional industries like digital industries, renewable energy and green technologies.

### Rhetorical Framing

Industrial development has been framed to focus on sustainable economic growth and creation of jobs (Opoku, 2019). The target on SMEs and small-scale industries is meant to generate domestic economic opportunities whereas the adoption of heavy

industrialization will enhance the economic standing of Bangladesh at the global level. These objectives are placed in larger context of economic justice, in which, the industrialization advantages are supposed to be distributed among all citizens (Lund, 2019).

### **Public Aspirations and Realistic Expectations**

Although industrialization is one of the major concerns of economic growth, the practicality of realizing broad-based industrial growth in Bangladesh is pegged on the infrastructure limitations of Bangladesh, human capital and accessibility of finance to SMEs. Also, the endeavors of industrialization should be equitable to the environmental objectives (Jänicke, 2012) of the party whereby the economy is developed without undermining sustainability.

**Table-1:** Summary of the alignment

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Manifesto Alignment</b>	<b>Policy Summit 2026 Alignment</b>
<b>1. Governance and Economic Policy</b>	The manifesto emphasizes a zero-tolerance policy on corruption, a corruption-free state, and institutional reforms.	The summit emphasizes governance reform as foundational for national development, highlighting ethical leadership and anti-corruption.
<b>2. Human Capital and Education</b>	The manifesto advocates for a reform in the education system to meet global standards and provides loans for graduates.	The summit mirrors this by focusing on human capital development through education reform, skills development, and interest-free loans for students.
<b>3. Youth Empowerment and Employment</b>	Youth empowerment is a priority in the manifesto, with pledges for job creation and market-oriented skill training.	The summit prioritizes youth empowerment, advocating for job creation, skill development programs, and district-level employment banks.
<b>4. ICT and Digital Transformation</b>	The manifesto promotes a technology-driven modern society and outlines Vision 2040 for ICT development and job creation.	The summit aligns with this by focusing on transforming Bangladesh into a knowledge-based economy through ICT, digital infrastructure, and global competitiveness.
<b>5. Social Protection and Healthcare</b>	Provisions for universal healthcare, free healthcare for children below five and senior citizens above 60 are stated.	The summit proposes a similar approach, emphasizing lifelong healthcare coverage, maternal health, and child nutrition programs.
<b>6. Economic Resilience and Financial Sector Reform</b>	The manifesto advocates financial sector reform, especially for banks, and promotes SME development.	The summit supports these reforms, aiming for a business-friendly economy, transparent financial systems, and fostering private sector growth.
<b>7. Social Justice and Inclusivity</b>	Calls for equal citizenship rights for all, social security, and inclusive governance.	The summit echoes these calls for inclusivity, focusing on equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and employment for all groups.
<b>8. Remittances and Diaspora Engagement</b>	The manifesto highlights the importance of remittances, especially intellectual remittances, from expatriates.	The summit discusses diaspora engagement and leveraging intellectual remittances to enhance national development and capacity building.
<b>9. Long-Term Development Vision</b>	The manifesto envisions a transition from a labor-dependent economy to a knowledge-based economy by 2030.	The summit shares this vision, focusing on sustainable economic transformation through education, innovation, and digitalization.
<b>10. Environmental Sustainability</b>	Proposes a "Three Zero Vision" for zero environmental degradation, zero waste, and zero flood risk.	The summit includes green policies aimed at environmental sustainability, reducing waste, and fostering a clean, green Bangladesh.

**Source:** Authors own creation

### **7. Discussion of the study**

The analysis of the "Policy Summit- 2026" and "Election Manifesto" of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami shows that it has a visionary perspective to overcome major challenges in the country related to governance, economic growth, education, health, and social security of the population. In essence, the party manifesto aims at establishing a fair and fair society, solving the governance inefficiency, promoting the economy and enhancing living standards of the marginalized groups. Although the policy proposals are consistent with the global development objectives, their plausibility and the possibility of application to the particular socio-political and economic setting of Bangladesh should be critically evaluated.

Political manifestos all over the world are often characterized by the necessity to have good governance and economic reforms to enable growth and cope with the systemic problems (Lewis, 1996). The accent on institutional reform and anti-corruption in the manifesto of Jamaat-e-Islami is a well-worn story in the history of the progression of emerging economies whereby the policy of governance has been destroyed in many cases by bureaucracy and political interference. The political parties in most of the countries with similar problems like Nigeria and Egypt have run on the anti-corruption agendas, where they promise institutional reforms to restate a more open and transparent governing system (Suberu, 2020). Nevertheless, such recommendations, despite their good

intentions, have continually encounters a big challenge in their implementation because of the political dynamics and financial constraints which are deep-rooted (Leftwich, 1993).

In Bangladesh, the good governance and establishment of a corruption-free state as contained in the manifesto is in tandem with the general populace hopes of having a transparent, accountable government that is able to provide its services efficiently. The rhetoric of zero tolerance of corruption as employed in the manifesto is appealing to the indignation of the people that is related to corruption and bad governance. Nevertheless, as it has been seen in other nations that have taken the same vows, such reforms are a complicated and challenging undertaking (Szeftel, 1998). The process of institutional reform is especially difficult in the countries where political corruption is not only rife, but it is also instated in the bureaucracy and the political parties (Arowosegbe, 2017). In this way, the success of the policy objectives of Jamaat-e-Islami will be largely dependent on the political will, popular support, and institutional capacity of the party in overcoming the institutional resistance and partisan politics.

The other important area of the vision of Jamaat-e-Islami is education reform which is positioned as the basis of building human capital and economic growth. The proposals contained in the manifesto, such as giving graduates interest-free loans and establishing world-class universities, go alongside the global trends that have realized that education is the major way of economic modernization. In most of the developed countries, economic growth and social mobility have been based on massive investments in education. One example of this is South Korea that has developed on the basis of investment in education, transforming into a high tech-high skilled economy in a matter of decades out of a low-income economy. (Weiss, 2005) The focus on skills training and technical education has also assisted Singapore in the creation of a very skilled workforce which is capable of sustaining the country on its knowledge-driven economy.

The same can be said of the policy summit that is centered on skills development and entrepreneurial support as the population of Bangladesh young people, who make up a large percentage of the population, need to be provided with the skills necessary to engage in a fast-moving global economy. Nevertheless, the issue of the quality and access to education in Bangladesh cannot be ignored. Access to quality education particularly between urban and rural locations is also a major setback. Although the idea of Jamaat-e-Islami to establish world-class education is impressive, implementation of the reforms will be hampered by resource constraints, particularly in the backdrop of the current education system and staffing challenges in Bangladesh. In addition, the decoupling between the outputs of education and the requirement of the labor market is a daunting task in making sure that the educational institutions are providing the right skills that are in line with the industry requirements. The idealistic aims of the manifesto in the field of education will have to be coupled with the realistic solutions to overcome the systematic fault of the system (Holmlund, 2023).

Policies provided in the manifesto on youth employment and empowerment also support the accordance to the global development priorities. With nations in the world struggling with the difficulty of getting their youthful population into economic opportunities, the focus of Jamaat-e-Islam to provide jobs, train skills, and become entrepreneurs is a response to a problem that is now ubiquitous. In Tunisia, after the Jasmine Revolution, unemployment among youths is a burning problem and to solve this problem, the government introduced entrepreneurship training programs and skills development programs (El-Khawas, 2012). On the same note, South Africa has also initiated youth employment programs as a way of addressing the issue of youth unemployment and encouraging economic inclusion. Such policies are not only meant to provide employment opportunities, but also to enable the youth to participate in the growth of the economy by setting up of their own businesses and being employed (Dhakal, 2018).

The success of these proposals will however be determined by the level of realism of aligning the educational outcomes with the market needs. The idea of Jamaat-e-Islami to provide millions of jobs and entrepreneurs is ambitious, but it needs a collaboration between the government and colleges and the business to help resolve the skills gap and make sure that the youth is properly prepared to go into the modern labor market (Sobel et al., 2007). In addition, the programs of entrepreneurship are normally troubled by lack of capital, barriers to market, and legal obstacles. The given schemes of job creation may not work, without substantial structural alterations and support measures.

The emphasis of Jamaat-e-Islami on ICT, digital transformation also exploits the rising international agreement that the digital economies will be the source of future growth. In other nations such as Kenya, mobile technology has been used as an instrument of economic inclusion especially in sectors such as agriculture, finance and health. The vision of Jamaat-e-Islami on a knowledge-based economy supported by ICT is a progressive idea that makes Bangladesh one of the possible actors in the digital economy of the world. (Amin, 2016) Yet, this conversion demands a big investment in online infrastructure, competence training, and regulation policies. Digital divide of urban and rural regions, as well as lack of access to technology in most of the regions of the country, may inhibit the successful implementation of the ICT objectives provided in the manifesto in Bangladesh.

Finally, there are social welfare programs, including universal health care and welfare of vulnerable communities, which indicate the level of commitment of Jamaat-e-Islami to inequality and guaranteeing economic stability of every citizen. Although these policies conform to the world trends of social protection, especially in the Nordic nations, the budgetary constraints and weak institutions will limit the possibility of providing universal healthcare and social security in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has already come far in enhancing access to healthcare, although geographical differences in service delivery and lack of funding are significant obstacles on the way to the universal social protection.

## 8. Implications of the study

The discussion of the 'Policy Summit- 2026' and "Election Manifesto" of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yields some significant implications to the political and developmental situation in Bangladesh. As much as the vision of the party is generic and the same objectives are similar to the rest of the world development goals, the possibility of the proposals to be feasible within the context of Bangladesh socio-economic and political reality has its own opportunities and challenges. The future projected in the manifesto is not modest as it covers major aspects like reform in governance, economic restructuring, education, healthcare and social welfare but the attainment of these objectives will have to go through some big obstacles.

The proposals by the manifesto about government reform and a corruption free state denote great control towards the integrity of the institution and political responsibility. This is a reflection of other countries in the developing world, where political parties

have been running on anti-corruption agenda in hope of changing the capacity of the state to deliver competent governance. Nonetheless, institutional reform has a very difficult challenge in Bangladesh where the culture of corruption and ineffective bureaucracy is firmly rooted, which might deter the success of such proposals. What this means is that Jamaat-e-Islami will have to undertake long term activities to develop institutional capability and to make sure that the reform of governance is not just a mere rhetoric but can be implemented. These should not only be mere rhetoric in policy but some actual measures that enhance performance in the public sector and create trust to the citizens in the government.

The emphasis on the empowerment of youth and creation of jobs in the manifesto is timely, since unemployment among the youths is one of the most urgent problems in Bangladesh. Both the employment creation ideas and the entrepreneurship ideas of creating millions of jobs can tap into the youthful population in the country to become an economic powerhouse. Nevertheless, the focus of the manifesto on the young people must be prudently correlated with the factual job avenues and training schemes that suit the labor market demands. The problem, though, is how to deal with the lack of connection between the market needs and the system of education. To make such proposals successful, there should be considerable reform of the educational institutions in Bangladesh to bring about graduates who have the relevant skills in a more globalized economy. Moreover, such factors as mentorship, access to markets, and a friendly regulatory environment have to support entrepreneurship too. What it means to Jamaat-e-Islami is that the rhetoric of youth empowerment is a strong one, but the success of such policies will ultimately be determined by the institutionalization of support systems that can assist the youth in their transition to education and meaningful employment or sustainable entrepreneurship.

The other important section of the manifesto is that it addresses ICT development and makes Bangladesh a knowledge-based economy. The party proposals on generating ICT employment as well as enhancing digital infrastructures are geared towards incorporating Bangladesh in the international digital economy. Digital transformation has been used by many countries as an economic growth and job creation tool. Indicatively, Kenya is triumphant in mobile technology, which has triggered financial inclusion and employment. On the same note, Estonia has led the world in digital policy owing to its achievements in e-governance and digital services. Although the digital transformation objectives of Jamaat-e-Islami are in line with these global tendencies, Bangladesh is also faced with some critical issues associated with the digital access and literacy, particularly when it comes to rural regions of the country. Rural Bangladesh still has poor infrastructure in ICT and digital illiteracy continues to be one of the obstacles to effective ICT adoption. The implication here is that although the digital transformation agenda is necessary in the future growth, its success will hinge on the investments in the rural infrastructure, enhancement of the digital literacy, and affordable access of technology to the vulnerable groups of the society.

On the same note, the social welfare which the manifesto is keen on such as universal healthcare, pensions to aged people and welfare to marginalized members of the society, portrays how the party was dedicated to creating a better society. Consistent with the trends of socially protection programs across the globe, Jamaat-e-Islami suggests a universal healthcare system and social security which is reminiscent of the policies of Nordic nations. The implication on Bangladesh however, is that although such proposals are important in alleviating poverty and inequality, their practical application is limited by the financial constraints and the institution. The healthcare system is already heavily straining in Bangladesh and the implementation of universal coverage will demand a big investment and capacity building in the healthcare sector. Within the same context, any extension of social security to include all citizens and especially those in the rural areas will need a radical change to make the system inclusive and sustainable.

Finally, the system of Jamaat-e-Islami in regard to its long-term development vision of eco-friendly policies and encouraging the development of green energy shows a certain degree of increasing global agreement on sustainable development. With the global countries dealing with the issues of climate change, the Three Zero Vision (zero waste, zero environmental degradation, and zero flood risk) presented in the manifesto provides an ecologically aware roadmap to the development of the country. What this means is that Bangladesh should seek a way of ensuring that it balances the growth of the economy and sustainability of the environment. The country is already susceptible to the climate change and the policies that are aimed at green technologies, renewable energy and sustainable industrial development will not just contribute to the future mitigation of the consequences of the environmental degradation, but it will also contribute to the economic resilience in the long-run perspective. Nevertheless, the vision of Jamaat-e-Islami will entail high investment in green technologies and infrastructural requirements and integration with the international organizations to ensure that Bangladesh development agenda is aligned with global sustainability agenda.

## 9. Future Research Agenda

The Policy Summit 2026 and Election Manifesto of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami provides an abundant understanding of politics agendas and their correspondence with the aspirations of the people and the national development agenda. Nonetheless, some of the aspects should be researched further to develop a more complex picture of the policy proposals by the party and their long-term consequences on the development of Bangladesh. Future study on the same topic may focus on examining how these policies can be realized in practical terms, as well as, how they affect the various sections of society.

1. The area that might be considered by future research would be the difficulties in implementing the ideas/proposals in the manifesto, especially the reforms of the system of governance and institutional capacity building. Although this paper presents a general overview of the proposals, it would be fruitful to discuss the politics and institutions in Bangladesh to determine whether the reforms proposed by Jamaat-e-Islami can be implemented in the existing political system. In the future, studies might also be conducted on how Jamaat-e-Islami will address the issue of institutional resistance and political opposition to the implementation of its vision, particularly in a highly polarized political situation.
2. The other key area that future research should be taken would be to determine the actual consequences of the youth empowerment schemes suggested in the manifesto. Such research projects could be undertaken on the effectiveness of such initiatives in time to correct the skills mismatch between the education outcomes and the labor market requirements. A comparative analysis to other nations that have already introduced the initiatives of youth employment and

entrepreneurship might give some good feedback on how these initiatives may turn out in practice and whether they can achieve the job and entrepreneurial opportunities results promised in the manifesto.

3. Another way in which additional studies can be conducted is on the economic impacts of the social welfare programs, including universal healthcare and education reforms, with reference to long-term financial viability. Research might be conducted into the economic theories put forward by the party to finance these reforms and the viability of redistributing national resources to finance such aggressive social programs but not to increase economic inequality and to create unsustainable debt. Some crucial lessons on how resources should be allocated, cost-benefit analysis, and policy outcomes might be learnt through policy simulations or case studies of other developing countries that have experimented with similar projects.
4. The ICT and digital transformation vision developed by Jamaat-e-Islami is another aspect that should be discussed. Although the manifesto emphasizes on the significance of digital infrastructure and the creation of ICT job opportunities, a future study can focus on analyzing the digital divide in Bangladesh, particularly rural regions, and evaluating the feasible issues of large-scale creation of ICT jobs. The further research on how the ICT policies have been implemented in other developing countries, especially in the areas where technological infrastructure is not so developed, would be helpful in determining the activities that should be undertaken to ensure that Bangladesh becomes an economy of knowledge successfully.
5. The other research area that may be undertaken in future is gender equality and empowerment of women through the manifesto of Jamaat-e-Islami. Even though the manifesto has certain provisions to involve women and empower them economically, it is not seen how the proposals will be put in practice unless the issues of gender inequality are addressed in the past in Bangladesh. Studies can be done to find out to what level the policies brought about by the party concerning women education, healthcare and economic participation will bring tangible changes in gender equality and empowering women and what are the challenges that could be used to block way in this direction.

Therefore, comparative research might also be undertaken to determine the vision of the policy of Jamaat-e-Islami in relation to the development agendas of the other political parties of Bangladesh and also other emerging economies. It would enable a more in-depth depiction of how the development process of Bangladesh is preconditioned by political ideologies and policy discussions, and whether the suggestions of Jamaat-e-Islami may be regarded as a more sustainable way to go than the proposals made by other participants of the political activities.

#### **Concerns on Ethics Declaration**

This study will follow the best practices of academic honesty and ethics. The ethical considerations followed in coming out with this paper are as follows:

1. **Informed Consent:** The study used purely official “Policy Summit- 2026” and “Election Manifesto” of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. Therefore, the study did not involve the collection of primary data or personal interviews, which means that the issue of informed consent did not arise.
2. **Confidentiality:** There would be no issues of confidentiality because the research did not deal with any personal data. The publicly available documents are analyzed, which guarantees the transparency and openness of the research process.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** There has been a complete attempt to make the research methodology as transparent as possible. The references to the sources have been presented in the form of the manifesto and the policy summit documents, which have been credited and cited. The references incorporated in the paper are quoted in the Chicago style.
4. **Plagiarism:** The study is the result of originality. Any sources or ideas that were obtained off other works have been cited and there is no issue of trying to represent the work of others as our own.
5. **Impartiality and Objectivity:** The current study is aimed at presenting a biased and objective review of “Policy Summit- 2026” and “Election Manifesto”. The study might be critical in looking at how the proposed policies correlate with the aspirations of the Bangladeshi people, without any political inclinations and party affiliations.
6. **Respect of Diversity:** The study recognizes and appreciates the different opinions and values, which are present in the political system of Bangladesh. This is done without ignoring the fact that the complex socio-political and cultural context within which the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami operates is very complex.
7. **Acknowledgement:** HAI such as, ChatGPT (basic) was used to improve the English of this paper.

#### **10. Conclusions**

The Policy Summit 2026 and Election Manifesto of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami is a perspective of inclusive development and economic transformation, and it is in line with the global trends in governance, education, ICT, youth empowerment, and social welfare. Although the ideas presented in the manifesto appeal to the masses, the development of these grand plans will be affected by institutional capacity, political goodwill, and the capacity to deal with the issues that are present in the socio-political environment in Bangladesh. The realization of the vision stated in the manifesto will involve concerted efforts by the government, the private sector, and the civil society to make sure that humans have ambitious policies that they are translating into tangible outcomes that will be of help to all strata of the society.

## Annex-1

### Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's 'Policy Summit 2026': Points Announced So Far:

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami held its "Policy Summit 2026" today, 20 January, at 9:00 a.m. in the ballroom of Hotel InterContinental in the capital. At the Policy Summit, various policy initiatives aimed at building a new Bangladesh were announced through multiple panel discussions.

#### Announced Points of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's "Policy Summit-2026" are as follows:

1. A zero-tolerance policy against corruption will be adopted.
2. Taxes and VAT (Value Added Tax) will be gradually reduced from the current rates, with a long-term target of bringing tax down to 19 percent and VAT to 10 percent.
3. A Smart Social Security Card will be introduced (combining NID, TIN, health, and social services into a single card).
4. Gas, electricity, and water charges for all industries will not be increased over the next three years.
5. Closed factories will be reopened under Public-Private Partnership, and 10% ownership will be allocated to workers.
6. Business-friendly policies will be formulated, and a simplified licensing system will be introduced.
7. Interest-free loan facilities will be provided for small and medium farmers.

#### Education-related

8. Up to 500,000 graduates will be provided with interest-free loans (Qard-e-Hasana) of up to BDT 10,000 per month for a maximum period of two years, from graduation until employment.
9. Based on merit and need, 100,000 students will receive interest-free education loans of BDT 10,000 per month.
10. Every year, 100 students will be given interest-free education loans to study at the world's top universities, ensuring that talented students from poor families can study at Harvard, MIT, Oxford, and Cambridge.
11. Eden College, Begum Badrunnesa College, and Home Economics College will be merged to establish the world's largest women's university.
12. Large colleges under the National University will be transformed into universities.
13. All recruitment will be merit-based.

#### Healthcare-related

14. Free healthcare services will be provided for senior citizens above 60 years of age and children below 5 years.
15. Sixty-four specialized hospitals will be established in all 64 districts.
16. Under the "First Thousand Days Program," primary healthcare and nutrition security for mothers and children—from pregnancy until a child reaches two years of age—will be brought under the social security framework.

#### Plans for Youth

17. A new ministry will be established for skilled manpower development and job placement.
18. Ten million youths will be provided with market-oriented skill training within five years.
19. A "Youth Tech Lab" for graduates will be established in every upazila.
20. By forming a "District Job Youth Bank" in every district, access to 5 million jobs will be ensured within five years.
21. Five hundred thousand entrepreneurs will be created, prioritizing women, youth, and marginalized communities.
22. One and a half million freelancers will be developed.
23. Suitable skill development programs will be launched for low-educated youth.

#### ICT and Vision 2040

24. "Vision 2040" will be announced for the development of the ICT sector.
25. By 2030, two million ICT jobs will be created and placed.
26. A National Payment Gateway will be established for freelancers and digital exports.
27. A target will be set to earn USD 50 billion in export revenue from the ICT sector.
28. A target will be set to save USD 15 billion in government expenditure in the ICT sector.
29. A goal will be set to transform the economy from a labor-dependent model to a knowledge-based economy.

#### Remittance-related

30. Remittance earnings will be increased two to three times within 5–7 years through skilled manpower.
31. In addition to financial remittances, expatriate Bangladeshi professionals, researchers, and teachers will be brought back to the country as "intellectual remittance."
32. The Policy Summit was attended by ambassadors from various countries, top leaders of political parties, intellectuals, academics, prominent editors and journalist leaders, researchers, professionals, and other distinguished individuals.

## Annex-2

Jamaat-e-Islami has highlighted a total of 26 issues as its highest priority in its announced 41-point election manifesto. These include—the primacy of youth in state governance, ensuring women's safety, building a technology-based society, implementing the July Charter, and abolishing the fascist system. 26 priority issues in the manifesto, The manifesto states—

1. Building a state with independence, sovereignty, and uncompromising national interests in the light of the slogan 'Bangladesh without compromise in national interests'.
2. Establishing a humane Bangladesh based on justice and fairness, free from discrimination.

3. Empowering youth and giving them priority in state governance.
4. Building a safe, dignified, and participatory state for women.
5. Building a safe state free of extortion and terrorism by improving the law and order situation.
6. Establishing a corruption-free state through honest leadership and institutional reforms.
7. Building a modern and smart society based on technology.
8. Creating widespread employment in the technology, agriculture, industry, and manufacturing sectors; free application and merit-based recruitment for government jobs.
9. To build an investment-friendly and transparent economy by reforming the financial sector, including banks.
10. Ensuring a fair electoral environment including a proportional (PR) system and strengthening the supervisory government system.
11. Prosecute state-sponsored murders, disappearances and extrajudicial killings and ensure human rights.
12. Preserving the history of the July Revolution, rehabilitating the families of martyrs and injured fighters and implementing the July Charter.
13. Achieving an agricultural revolution by increasing the use of technology in agriculture.
14. Building a green and clean Bangladesh by 2030 through adulteration-free food security and implementing the 'Three Zeros Vision'.
15. Developing small and medium industries, as well as establishing heavy industries and encouraging domestic and foreign investment.
16. Ensuring fair wages, improving the standard of living and a safe working environment for workers.
17. Ensuring all rights of expatriates, including voting rights, and their effective participation in state formation.
18. Not majority-minority, but ensuring equal rights for all as citizens.
19. Modern and universal healthcare and free treatment for the poor in stages.
20. Timely education reforms and introducing free education in stages.
21. Controlling prices of goods to keep them within the purchasing power of the people and ensuring basic needs.
22. Reducing the distance between the capital and the divisional cities to two-three hours by developing the road and rail communication system.
23. Ensuring low-cost housing for lower and middle-class families.
24. Continuing the ongoing trial and reform activities to completely eliminate the fascist system.
25. Ensuring international-standard social security by introducing a universal social security system.
26. Establishing a happy and prosperous welfare state by ensuring transparency and accountability at all levels.
- 27.

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