

## National Cyber Security Index

An achievement of digital Bangladesh

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Probably through news and print media you all know that Bangladesh is positioned as 73 in National Cyber Security Index. This writeup is to give some idea about what it means and where are we currently in reality from Cyber Security Perspective.

Because of the government's innovative steps to implement Digital Bangladesh and Vision 2021, all the government services of Bangladesh are going digital, as well as the possibility of cyber-attack risks are increasing. To safeguard this risk and protect the e-governance of the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh e-Government Computer Incident Response Team or BGD e-GOV CIRT was established in 2015. Since its inception, BGD e-GOV CIRT is leading Bangladesh in Cyber Security field in both national and international perspective and increasing collaboration with International organizations by memberships, MoU and sessions. In continuation of this, the National Cyber Security Index was communicated in 2018 and provided all necessary information to them. After the verification of the information, the name of the country is included in the last index of that organization.

The National Cyber Security Index is a global index, which measures the preparedness of countries to prevent cyber threats and manage cyber incidents. The NCSI is also a database with publicly available evidence materials and a tool for national cyber security capacity building. The index has been developed in 5 steps: Identification of national level cyber threats, identification of cyber security measures and capacities, selection of important and measurable aspects, development of cyber security indicators, grouping of cyber security indicators.

The NCSI focuses on measurable aspects of cyber security implemented by the central government: Legislation in force: Legal acts, regulations, orders, etc. Established units: Existing organisations, departments, etc. Cooperation formats: Committees, working groups, etc. Outcomes: Policies, exercises, technologies, websites, programmes, etc.

According to the NCSI authorities, Bangladesh is currently ranked at the 73th position in the National Cyber Security Index in the world. According to the same organization, the position of Bangladesh in the Global Cyber Security Index is 53rd.

According to the NCSI data, Bangladesh's achievements in cyber incident response, the ability of the police in prevention and action against cybercrime and the cyber-capability of the military force are mentionable. In this context, the recent initiatives of establishing BGD e-GOV CIRT, establishment of cybercrime unit of Bangladesh Police, etc. must be mentioned separately.

The areas where Bangladesh are behind in the index are cyber security policy, cyber threat analysis, protection of important e-services, personal data protection policies etc. There are already several initiatives taken by Government in order to improve these areas. Digital Security Act-2018 draft has already been approved by the cabinet, implementation of which will improve the cyber security policy, the security of important e-services and the protection of personal information areas. Presently, under the Leveraging ICT for Growth Employment and Governance Project, under the Bangladesh Computer Council of Information and Communication Technology Division, 15 cyber sensors are being installed in 15 identified critical infrastructures. The implementation of this project will increase the cyber threat analysis and security of important services. Currently, a digital forensic lab has been set up for Cyber Threat Analysis of BGD e-GOV CIRT. The benefits of which is already began to show up. There is

currently a project going on called "Development of cyber security strategy, assessment of critical infrastructure, provision of self-assessment toolkit, and basic cyber security package for agencies". Once these government-initiated projects are implemented, Bangladesh will have a great leap to this cyber security index. One thing to mention about this is that, among the Asian countries, Sri Lanka has started working on cyber security First. They are the pioneer in cyber security in Asia, but Bangladesh has surpassed them in this index (Sri Lanka's position 77). This achievement is to be proud of.

Effective & well-planned initiatives taken by the present government and the implementation of the projects will further advance Bangladesh. It can be surely said that Bangladesh position in the same Cyber Index will improved. Everybody working in the background behind this success can get some sincere thanks! But the biggest thanks can be given with closed eyes to the Honorable Prime Minister's ICT adviser and the Architect of Digital Bangladesh Mr. Sajeeb Wazed Joy!

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