

Bangladesh

Archetype **Conditional demographic giants**

GDP / person **\$3k**

Population **176M**

10-yr trend **6.3%**

Gradual **10.3%** · #52

Fast **12%** · #63

WHERE BANGLADESH STARTS

Bangladesh enters the AGI era as one of South Asia's conditional demographic giants — economies whose scale and youth are the asset, if power, connectivity and capital arrive in time. The scores explain the label. Physical build speed is 4.9 out of 5, near the top of any country: Padma Bridge, the Dhaka metro, the Rooppur nuclear plant and the Matarbari deep-sea port show a state that can move earth fast. A young workforce gives it 3.8 on demographics and 3.8 on catch-up headroom. But the complements are thin. Compute and energy access scores just 1.2, and language inclusion 1.6, because little of the frontier runs in Bengali. At about \$2,597 per person, this is a lower-middle-income economy. Ten-year trend growth of 6.3% a year is among the world's fastest, built on garments and remittances.

THE THREE PATHS

These are simulations, not forecasts. The Modest path is the baseline, and the two AGI scenarios fork from it. Under the **Modest** scenario, AI stays a normal technology. Bangladesh's own momentum carries it: 6.5% growth a year, 6th of 157, because few economies match its trend when AI adds little. Garment plants, remittances and young workers keep doing the work. Under **Gradual** takeoff, growth would climb through a two-decade ramp and reach 10.3% a year once AGI matures around 2045, ranking 52nd. That economy doubles in about seven years. Under **Fast** takeoff, growth would reach 12% a year from the early 2030s, a doubling every six years. Yet Bangladesh's rank would slip to 63rd. A fast world rewards the compute and frontier access it does not hold, so others pull ahead even as Bangladesh grows faster than its own history. Regulation and politics could slow or redirect any path. How Bangladeshis and their leaders respond to transformative AI is a variable the model holds constant.

HOW YOU WOULD KNOW WHICH WORLD YOU ARE IN

The scenarios look almost the same until about 2030. Watch leading indicators, not GDP, and check them live rather than trust any snapshot. Three global signals matter most. First, whether the METR task-horizon curve keeps doubling every four to five months through 2027–28; METR publishes it at metr.org. Second, whether frontier-lab revenue and capital spending keep compounding; Epoch AI tracks both at epoch.ai. Third, whether growth in the ten to twenty most-ready economies — the United States and China above all — breaks above trend in the early 2030s. Double-digit growth there within a couple of years of 2030 would point to

a fast world; a point or two above trend by the mid-2030s to a gradual one; a fade back to trend to a modest one. Bangladesh's own tells would come earlier than GDP: the order books of the garment factories, hyperscaler or hosting commitments on Bangladeshi soil, Rooppur's reactors feeding the grid, and adoption rates for the a2i digital government services.

IF GROWTH GOES EXPLOSIVE

Explosive is relative. At 10 to 12% growth a year, Bangladesh would run well ahead of its own 6.3% history and above its region's median. But it would still trail the frontier, where the United States could be compounding around three times as fast. This is catch-up, not leadership. An economy doubling every six to seven years would see a child born today reach adulthood in a country several times richer. Garments would share the stage with digital services and domestic industry. Bangladesh sends millions of workers to the Gulf; stronger demand and higher wages at home would ease the pressure to emigrate for work. There is a way this leaves Bangladesh worse off. Its frontier compute is rented, not owned, and its chip access depends on rules written in Washington and Beijing. A rule-taker can be throttled or reprimed by others' decisions. The hedge is to diversify suppliers and own more capacity over time. Even then, the pace-setter shifts to the state, testing how fast BEZA, the power board and the courts can permit, connect and adjudicate.

WHAT BANGLADESH CAN DO NOW

Three levers follow from the weakest high-weight scores, and the order matters. Start with the no-regret move: AI diffusion, at 2.6. Digital skills, permissive deployment and digital government carry real weight even in the skeptic's world, so they pay off whether or not AGI arrives. Bangladesh can build on its existing a2i program and national digital ID. The second lever is geopolitical positioning, at 2. Aligning with chip-supplying partners and keeping open access to capital markets is a low-cost hedge that helps under every scenario. The third lever is the bet: compute and energy access, at 1.2, barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary, but under fast takeoff it becomes Bangladesh's single biggest lever. Closing it means fast-tracking generation and grid links and packaging power and land for data centers. A lower-middle-income economy cannot fund this alone, so it needs partners. India offers a model with its IndiaAI Mission, which subsidizes shared GPU compute for firms and researchers. A cautious government can act on the first two today and lose nothing. Open the atlas's [policy editor](#) to see how moving these scores reshapes each path.

The three levers — and which pay off regardless

AI diffusion capacity

score 2.6 / 5 · weight 24 under skeptic → 13 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (24→13). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Compute & energy access

score 1.2 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 24 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 24 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

Trusted chip & tech access

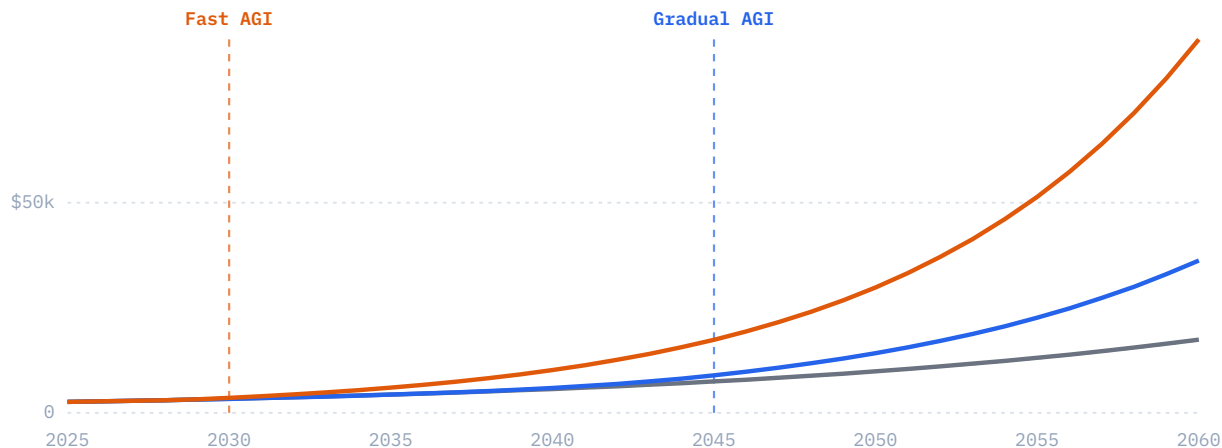
score 2 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 12 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 12 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

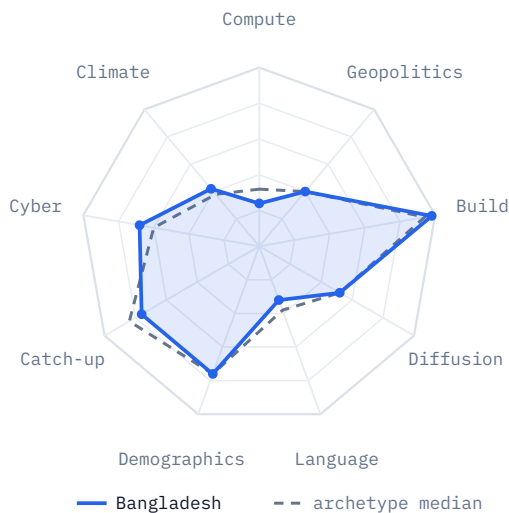
The no-regret levers pay off in every scenario, so a cautious government can act on them today. The AGI bets become decisive only if takeoff is real.

GDP per person to 2060, by scenario



Linear scale; solid lines are the three scenarios, dashed grey the no-AI baseline. Growth ramps from 2027 to each scenario's rate at its AGI year (Fast ~2030, Gradual ~2045), then holds. Timing and divergence are the point, not end levels; steep paths exit the top of the capped axis.

The nine factors



Solid: Bangladesh. Dashed: the median of its archetype. Scores are relative to the other 156 countries (3 ≈ global median, 5 = leading today).

Outcomes under each scenario

SCENARIO	GROWTH / YR	WORLD RANK	INDEX	DOUBLING
Modest	6.5%	6 / 157	58.4	11 yrs
Gradual	10.3%	52 / 157	56.1	7.1 yrs
Fast	12%	63 / 157	53.4	6.1 yrs

Post-AGI growth rate, rank among 157 countries, AGI Growth Index (0–100, scenario-weighted), and the implied economy doubling time. The Modest path is the baseline the AGI scenarios fork from.

THE THREE SCENARIOS

Modest the Acemoglu view

AI as a normal productivity tool

Intelligence was never the binding constraint on growth, so AI delivers real but ordinary gains. Each country gets a one-time boost of a couple of percent of GDP, phased in through 2035; growth then returns to trend. The mainstream-economics view.

≤0.66% TFP over a decade – a one-time gain

Bangladesh: 6.5% growth a year · #6 of 157

Gradual Erdil & Besiroglu, base case

Broad automation, on a long timeline

Broad automation of remote work arrives around 2045, with gains building slowly from the late 2020s. Growth then reaches up to ~20% a year for the best-positioned countries — ten times today's frontier trend. A slow arrival gives countries time to adapt, so the gains are wide but uneven.

up to ~20%/yr after 2045 – 10× the frontier trend

Bangladesh: 10.3% growth a year · #52 of 157

Fast Erdil & Besiroglu, fast takeoff

Fast takeoff — today's infrastructure decides

Transformation lands around 2030, before countries can adjust. Whoever already owns compute, capital and the ability to build wins; the gap between countries widens dramatically — and some are left growing slower than they would have without AGI.

up to ~40%/yr from 2030

Bangladesh: 12% growth a year · #63 of 157

Factor scores — and where policy bites



♦ marks this country's highest-leverage policy targets: the weakest factors carrying the most weight under the AGI scenarios. The atlas's interactive policy editor (agigrowth.org/#editor) simulates how raising any score changes growth under each scenario.

Archetype: Conditional demographic giants

Scale and youth are the asset — if power, connectivity and capital arrive in time. Every member is already climbing, or has its demographic dividend still ahead.

Wins: Mid-to-late, and only conditionally.

Watch: The dividend is the very labor AI substitutes for; the export ladder can be kicked away.

India **14.7%** · #16

Vietnam **13.3%** · #23

Philippines **13%** · #29

Indonesia **12.4%** · #35

Uzbekistan **11%** · #44

Kenya **10.3%** · #51

Egypt **10.2%** · #53

Tanzania **9.4%** · #62

Ethiopia **8.6%** · #76

Uganda **7.6%** · #86

The regional picture — One giant, five satellites.

India enters the era with the world's second-largest online workforce, English at scale, real if modest frontier compute, and a services-export sector that is both its proof of absorption and its exposure: the remote cognitive work AGI automates first is what India sells. Under the gradual lens its absolute gains are among the world's largest; under fast takeoff the question is whether a decade is long enough to climb from back office to builder. Geopolitically India hedges — Quad membership and deep US technology ties without alliance obligations — which has so far bought access without dependence. Bangladesh faces the era's hardest version of the ladder problem: its garment-led growth model assumes rich countries keep importing labor-intensive goods, an assumption automation erodes year by year. Pakistan has the youth without the complements; Sri Lanka and Nepal absorb at the margin; the Maldives imports everything. To an unusual degree, the region's fortunes over twenty years are one country's fortunes.

Method, in brief

Each country is scored 1–5 on nine factors from public data (World Bank, Epoch AI, ITU, IMF and national sources). A scenario-weighted average forms the AGI Growth Index (0–100), which maps to a post-AGI growth rate inside ceilings derived from Erdil & Besiroglu (2023): ~20% growth a year for the best-positioned country under Gradual takeoff (AGI ~2045), ~40% under Fast (AGI ~2030); growth ramps convexly from 2027. The scenario sets the growth rates on offer; the index only decides where each country sits within them. The Modest scenario is the skeptics' baseline — a small uplift on each country's own ten-year trend. These are simulations for structured thinking, not forecasts; no probabilities are attached to any scenario.

Watch the global signals live: the METR task-horizon curve at metr.org/time-horizons · frontier-lab revenue at epoch.ai/ai-companies · AI-chip spending at epoch.ai/ai-chip-sales.

Explore further: full methodology agigrowth.org/#methodology · map & rankings agigrowth.org/#explore · country profiles agigrowth.org/#countries · policy editor agigrowth.org/#editor