

POWERING DIGITAL BANGLADESH: THE CASE FOR DATA CENTRES

**The Digital
Backbone for
a \$500 Billion
Economy in
the Making**

DHAKA DATA CENTER

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Bangladesh's Digital Economy: A Ticking Growth Engine

With Bangladesh poised to become a **Top 30 global economy by 2030**, the demand for digital infrastructure is surging. From e-commerce and fintech to cloud computing and smart cities, the nation's digital ambitions hinge on **resilient, secure, and high-performance data centres**.

Yet, despite these ambitions, Bangladesh **lags significantly** behind regional peers in data centre capacity, reliability, and international connectivity — threatening to slow down innovation, compromise cybersecurity, and deter foreign investment.

Comparative Snapshot: Bangladesh vs Regional Data Centre Markets

Metric / Feature	Bangladesh	India	Singapore	Malaysia	Vietnam	Indonesia
Total Rated Capacity (MW)	~25 MW	900+ MW	1,400+ MW	500+ MW	150+ MW	300+ MW
Tier-III+ Certified DCs	3 (Dhaka focused)	50+	30+	20+	15+	20+
Cloud Provider Presence	Limited (local only)	Hyperscale (AWS, Azure)	Global (all major)	All major	Expanding	All major
Data Localisation Policy	In progress	Enforced	Mature	Enforced	Enforced	In progress
Latency to Global Internet Exchange	120–150ms	40–70ms	5–10ms	10–20ms	30–50ms	30–60ms



Current State of Data Centres in Bangladesh

Location	Type	Capacity (MW)	Operators
Dhaka (Uttara, Tejgaon)	Private Tier III	10–15 MW	Summit Communications, Aamra
Gazipur	Govt + Private	5–6 MW	BTCL, DataSoft
Jashore (Hi-Tech Park)	Govt (In development)	5–6 MW	Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority
Chattogram	Satellite Tier II	~2 MW	Local ISPs

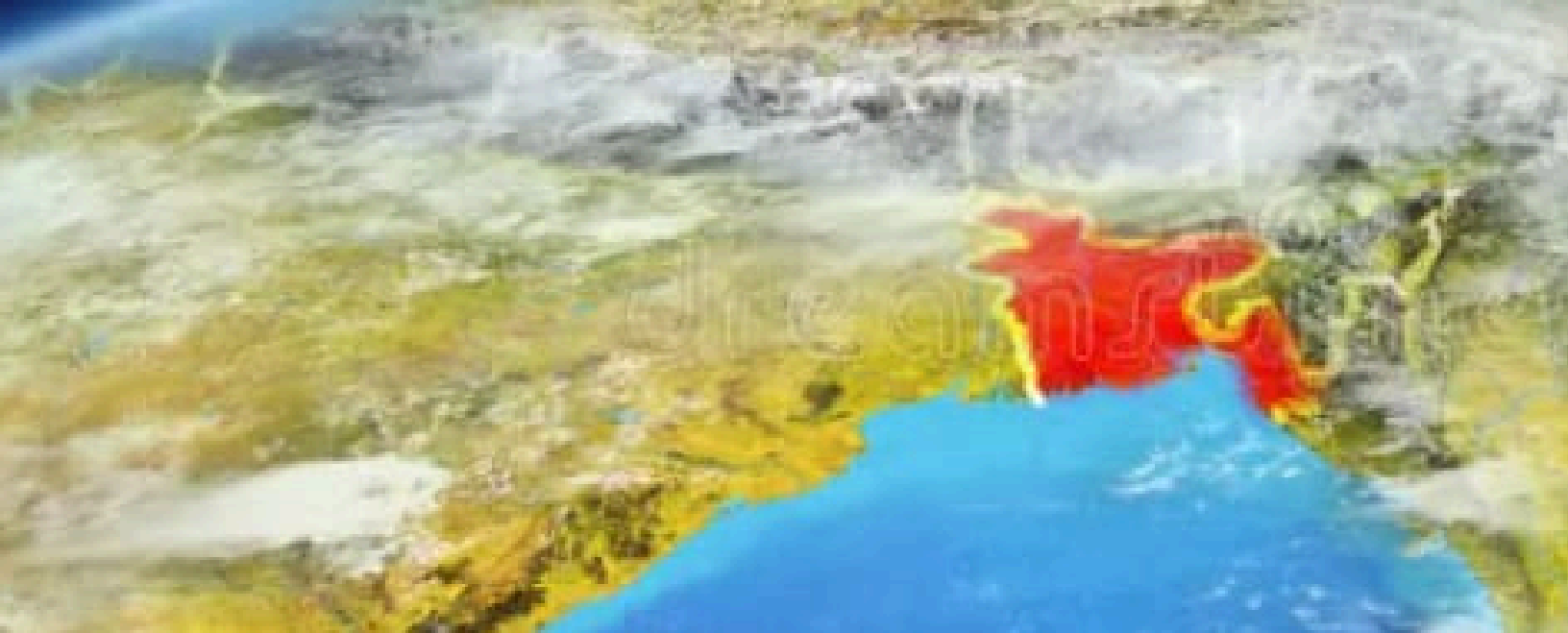
Why Bangladesh Needs More Data Centres — Urgently

Key Growth Drivers:

- **Internet Usage:** >70% internet penetration; mobile-first population
- **E-commerce Growth:** Market to reach \$10B+ by 2030
- **Fintech & Digital Payments:** 100M+ bKash/Nagad users
- **Smart Government & AI:** Push for AI and GovTech integration
- **Cloud Migration:** Rising demand from banks, telcos, and startups

Strategic Opportunities for Modern Data Centres

Opportunity Area	Details
Hyperscale Integration	Attract AWS, Google, Azure for regional cloud zones
Edge Computing Hubs	Reduce latency for gaming, IoT, and real-time services
Green Energy DCs	Solar or hybrid-powered data centres for ESG compliance
Disaster Recovery Zones	Offshore backup facilities for APAC clients
GovCloud & Sovereign DCs	Host secure citizen data and national infrastructure



Potential Locations for New Data Centres

Region	Strategic Value
Jashore	Access to submarine cable, government incentives, near Hi-Tech Park
Chattogram	Proximity to port, industrial base, redundancy zone
Sylhet	Cool climate, power surplus, lower land cost
Rajshahi	Low seismic risk, central placement for national coverage
Mymensingh	Close to proposed IT parks, growing talent pool

Estimated Investment Requirements (Per DC Unit)

Component	Estimated Cost (USD)
Land Acquisition & Civil Works	\$5–10 million
Electrical & Cooling Infrastructure	\$8–15 million
Network & Submarine Cable Integration	\$2–5 million
Tier-III/Tier-IV Certification	\$1–2 million
Equipment (Racks, Servers, UPS)	\$10–20 million
Cybersecurity & Compliance	\$3–5 million
Staffing & Training	\$1–3 million
Total (Per 5–10 MW DC)	\$30–60 million

Partnership & Financing Opportunities

Partner Type	Role
Private Sector	Local conglomerates (Summit, Aamra, Akij) and international investors (e.g. Equinix, ST Telemedia)
Government	Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, ICT Division, BEZA, PPP Authority
Development Finance	World Bank, IFC, ADB for sustainable and green data centre initiatives
Cloud Tech Giants	Co-location and investment via AWS, Microsoft, Google Cloud
Telecom Partners	Grameenphone, Robi, Teletalk for infrastructure sharing and edge computing

The Payoff for Bangladesh: Digital Infrastructure as Economic Engine

Impact Area	Expected Benefits
FDI Attraction	\$2–4 billion in tech FDI over next 5 years
Job Creation	50,000+ high-skill jobs in IT, cybersecurity, and engineering
Data Sovereignty	Local storage of citizen data, compliance with global laws
Digital Economy Boost	Backbone for \$50B+ digital services industry
Global Cloud Integration	Enhanced access for businesses to scale on global platforms

The Time to Act Is Now

Bangladesh cannot build a true “Smart Nation” without the invisible infrastructure that powers it: data centres.

In an era where **data is the new oil**, the lack of domestic hosting capacity puts the country at economic and strategic risk.

From storing biometric data to powering AI models and 5G networks – everything begins with robust, modern, and scalable **data infrastructure**.

We must seize this moment. Build now, lead later.



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