

## **Padma Multipurpose Bridge**

The Padma Bridge is a monumental multipurpose road-rail bridge constructed over the Padma River in Bangladesh, ranked among the most challenging infrastructure projects ever undertaken in the country. Officially inaugurated in June 2022 after years of construction, the trailblazing bridge connects the underdeveloped southwestern regions of Bangladesh with the northern and eastern areas, spanning over 6 kilometers between the cities of Louhajong, Munshiganj, Shariatpur and Madaripur. Funded entirely by national resources, the two-level steel truss structure has an upper deck four-lane highway and a lower deck single-railway track. With 41 sections each measuring 150 meters long and 22 meters wide, the Padma Bridge became Bangladesh's longest bridge, even surpassing prior bridges over the Ganges River. The pillars supporting the 6.15 kilometer long, 18.18 meter wide Padma Bridge extend deeper than any other bridge piles in the world, reaching down 120 meters to resist the fierce currents of the mighty Padma. Its construction overcome numerous obstacles including challenging river conditions, but the successful completion represents a hard-won engineering achievement for Bangladesh and a source of national pride. The bridge is predicted to facilitate major economic growth by increasing Bangladesh's GDP by up to 1.2% thanks to enhanced regional connectivity, easier transportation and stimulated commerce.

For the citizens of Bangladesh, the opening of the iconic Padma Bridge in 2022 after years of complicated construction symbolizes the nation's resilience in overcoming adversity as well as its hopes and determination for greater development ahead. The bridge links the previously disconnected southwestern districts with the rest of the country, allowing easier access to trade, hospitals, education and more for remote areas. With passenger trains, buses, trucks and vans soon crossing the river more effortlessly, the bridge will better integrate the national economy and assist around 30 million people. The Padma Bridge will undoubtedly facilitate Bangladesh's social advancement and prosperity for years to come as both a physical structure and enduring symbol of national unity and pride through once unfathomable odds.