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Cooperative Mechanism in the Indian Ocean

Bangladesh's Foreign Policy Compulsions, Constraints,
and Choices

Jail Killing: A Dark Chapter in the
History of Bangladesh

Rohingya Crisis
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Diplomats welcome the recently concluded negotiations with IMF. It has provisionally agreed to a \$4.5 billion support program for Bangladesh. The Fund is likely to be released in a 42-month arrangement, with \$3.2 billion from its Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility, plus about \$1.3 billion from its new Resilience and Sustainability Facility. The objectives of Bangladesh's new Fund-supported program are to preserve macroeconomic stability and support strong, inclusive, & green growth, and protect the vulnerable.

The IMF funds availability speaks of confidence in the economy and its underlying fundamentals. The Fund has acknowledged that it is Bangladesh's program to foster growth and contain inflation and strengthen the financial sector. The Bangladesh Finance Minister remarked that the IMF team agreed with the government's economic reforms.

As the world's population has reached the eight billion mark, it is a testament to improvements in nutrition, public health, and sanitation in the world including Bangladesh.

On the other hand, the accelerating climate crisis and the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic are the cause of inequalities. We are heading for climate catastrophes, while emissions and temperatures continue to rise. Floods, storms, and droughts are devastating countries and regions that contributed almost nothing to global heating.

The COP27 held this month was extended to adopt a historic Climate Solidarity Pact under which developed and emerging economies unite around a common strategy and combine their capacities and resources for the benefit of humankind. Countries must provide key emerging economies with financial and technical support to transition away from fossil fuels. It is our only hope of meeting our climate goals. The COP27 agree on a road map and institutional framework to compensate countries in the Global South for climate-related loss and damage that is already causing enormous suffering.

Diplomats welcome the decision taken at COP27.

This month Diplomats issue carries a number of interesting write-ups for its readers.

Shahed Akhtar
Ambassador & Fmr. Secretary, GoB
and Editor, Diplomats Publication

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COOPERATIVE MECHANISM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

-Rear Admiral (Retd) Md Khurshed Alam

The Indian Ocean is a composite homogenous geographical and ecological region with over 2 billion people and a wide diversity of languages and cultures. More broadly, demographic, economic, and security developments in the region have crucial implications for Asia and the global order. The highly populated Indian Ocean region, with a combined gross domestic product close to US\$3.71 Trillion of the combined economy (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 2019) links the Pacific Oceans, and occupies a central position in relation to global economic flows in a way that few other regions do. However, the recent onslaught of the pandemic coronavirus has cast a shadow of pale and frustration in the progress of global civilization and predicts an uncertain gloom and downturn in global trade and commerce.

This region is very much concerned with maritime issues and capabilities. For some

countries, offshore resources provide a principal means of livelihood, and military threats can only come over and under the sea. Yet, despite its status as a key maritime role in global terms and all its economic promise, its potential is hamstrung by a lack of close internal economic integration among the countries that call the region home. The prospects for conflict and or cooperation in this region are affected by multidimensional factors. A variety of transnational threats like trafficking of narcotics, drugs, weapons, and people; the illegal exploitation of natural resources; border disputes, migration/refugee flows, rebel insurgencies, and terrorist groups or natural disasters that disrupt regional stability compound the challenge of making the Indian ocean integrated.

The very importance of the Indian Ocean itself, as it represents both the hyphen of the region and its main door to the rest of the World. It is

multifaceted in nature and influenced by factors that play at all scales from local to global. It is especially rich in conflictual and cooperative dynamics at the sub-regional level. As one of its new features, the emergent Indian Ocean regionalism raises new issues for the 21st century. If there is a clear quest for more cultural, economic, political, and even strategic emancipation from the large foreign powers and among the regional organizations, this does not necessarily mean that a wide and dynamic regional cooperation is to be successfully developed as normally expected but real efforts as suggested here can probably change the real structure of the effectivity of the Indian Ocean region.

The complex web of factors like historical antagonism, undefined land, and maritime boundaries, cross-border affiliation of ethno-linguistic and religious groups, conflict of economic interests, sharing of common rivers/ natural resources and a

turbulent process of nation-building accompanied by numerous interstate conflicts along with a combination of regional as well as extra-regional factors have gradually transformed this region into an area of mistrust and tensions. Recent events including that of Russia Ukraine war do not necessarily portend a more dangerous or unstable future, but for the time being, they do point to one of greater uncertainty and potential for fatal miscalculation.

The Emerging Challenges in the Indian Ocean:

The complex interplay among

goods and energy. Security at sea is equally critical to trade and long-term economic prosperity. Most of the trade in the region is carried by sea through focal areas and confined shipping channels, providing conditions that complicate maritime safety, further jeopardizing the overall security of nations highly dependent on sea trade. Besides, there has been a lack of understanding of the problem among policy-makers since it does not affect the population at large. In addition, maritime courts, diplomatic dialogue, and understanding among navies will be an effective response that

41000 ships passing over the Malacca Strait areas in a year and to the non-seafarer, such a figure, promotes a view of a dangerously unregulated, overcrowded shipping movements/ environments. Collisions and grounding continue to be a very real threat to ships here and in other areas of high traffic density. The growth in demand for energy in Asia (China, India, Japan, and South Korea) is forecast to surpass growth rates in all other areas, and in that oil, demand is expected to be the fastest in any region. The increased number of oil and liquefied natural gas tankers from the Middle East will increase the pressures on already congested strategic choke points and raise security concerns. Transportation of about 60% of world crude oil and its products along the oil tanker routes across the region has rendered these waters also prone to oil pollution. Large-scale oil spills could do irreparable damage to marine life and other offshore resources. In coastal waters, the run-off of used crankcase oils, with suspended impurities and heavy metal contamination is a pervasive, more serious problem than discharges from ships. Run-off and atmospheric transfer of petroleum account for 68% of petroleum pollution of the seas (Kennish 1994).

While the use of technology by the non-state actors is nothing new, the new technologies will have consequences leading to serious maritime incidents, leading to loss of life, environmental pollution, and cargo loss, directly affecting society and the economy. This is further supplemented by severe



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP and other local and foreign dignitaries in the IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference in Dhaka

the politics of sea, geopolitics, and geoeconomics, and the emerging challenges, in a nutshell, shows the rise of a new great game in the Indian Ocean. Maritime security threats including illegal trafficking in drugs, arms, and people, piracy, terrorism, illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, and the risks of natural disasters are on the rise as most of the countries in the region are dependent on the sea for access to foodstuffs, raw materials, manufactures

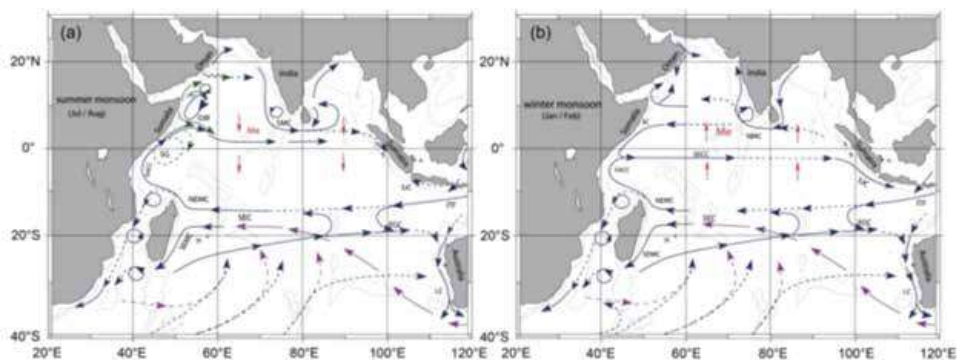
merits participation by all regional countries.

In terms of safeguarding sea lanes, the principal threats to shipping today are the same as they have always been fire, stranding, collision, and adverse weather. The pressures on the sea-lanes have been multiplied due to increased traffic density, the volume of cargo, and the difficulty of finding reliable information. Estimates of density vary with a maximum of over

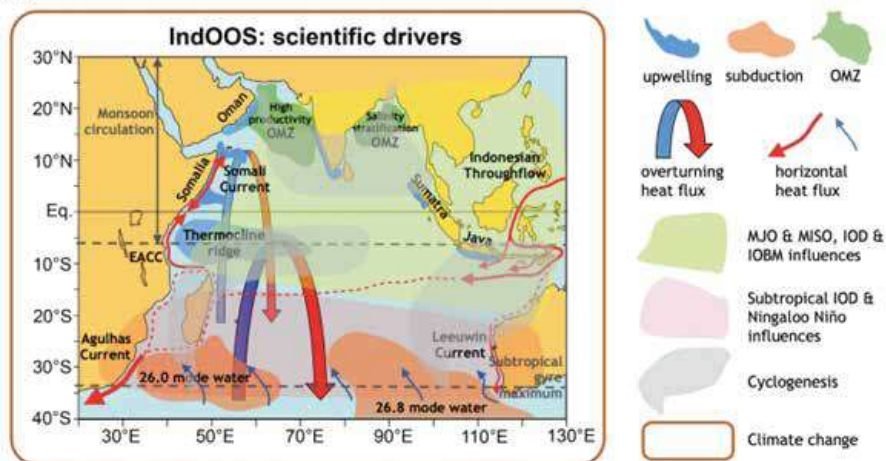
concerns about cyber-security that can undermine the security of Sea Lines of Communications. In the future, transnational criminal groups would be able to use autonomous ships, underwater vehicles, shore-based control, and fully autonomous remote operations for criminal activities.

Many countries in the region lack sufficient information and

ensure such governance, although, there are criticisms of the lack of trust, transparency, and political assurance. We need to foster more informed stewardship and innovative use of the blue economy/marine resources, within the overarching context of sustainable development. There must be greater integration of efforts and information to promote the sustainable



(c)



infrastructures about sea fish resources, their exploitation, and sustenance. Overall fish stocks in the region do not appear to be overexploited, but extra-regional ships have been known to exploit fishing and other marine resources in these areas often without legal permission.

Over the years, UNCLOS 1982 and other international maritime laws have been considered as pivotal instruments for all to

development of ocean resources and it must be based on open and greater communication networks among all stakeholders.

The importance of monitoring the enhanced greenhouse effect and the possibility of long-term climate change, global warming, and rising sea levels and their particular effects on some regional countries demands for a multidisciplinary approach for coordination among all

Meteorological stations of the countries of the region and the World Meteorological Organization. The multilayer plastic used in packaging of different products is one of the main reasons that have been exacerbating land-based pollution as well as in marine areas.

The region also suffers from floods, cyclones, storm surges, riverbank erosion, earthquake, drought, and tsunami. The region has also witnessed to 70 percent of the world's natural disasters. The swift response to the tragedy of the Tsunami, effectively demonstrated to the global community the unique brotherhood of the seas and the ability of maritime forces to not just work alongside each other, but also to catalyse and facilitate cooperation amongst nations. Countries in Asia and the Pacific are four times more likely to be affected by a natural catastrophe than those in Africa, and 25 times more vulnerable than Europe or North America. In fact, almost 80% of the human fatalities in natural disasters of the last decade have been in Asia. Whilst Bangladesh has accorded national priority to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) programmes and has a robust cyclone preparedness programme in place, yet feel that the greater use of technology: satellite surveillance and data collection through satellite fed ocean buoys system would contribute greatly for early warning of cyclone path to minimize damage and also announcing the advent of monsoon which is very important for our agriculture.



Maritime Security

Climate change and the effect of sea-level rise threaten coastal welfare, agricultural practices, and regional stability in terms of climate-induced migration and displacement. That further means competition over limited resources and exploitation of marine resources can potentially lead to traditional threats. The regional countries would require cooperation in building climate adaptation and resilience efforts using a cooperative framework that should include innovation, engineering, energy and agricultural technologies, climatology, urban development, and a host of other areas.

IOR is distinctively maritime in nature and the issues have to do with the sea, form an important part of international relations in the region both among regional countries themselves and between these countries and the rest of the world. It can be easily concluded that there are numerous issues of simmering and potential conflict and these may provide much fertile ground for regional conflict. For the convenience of analysis, it would be better to identify the main concrete issues that bedevil interstate equations in the region.

With the increasing interdependence of trade and the diminished responsibility of countries of registry, the navy's role of high sea patrol and surveillance and subsequent information exchange should be extended to other examples of suppression of violence at sea from criminal activity like pirates, arms, and drug smuggling, encroachment by others/fisheries infringements and including negligence and incompetence by the merchant/fishing/other vessels at sea. The traffic on the seas has increased by 470% since 1970 and is likely to triple in the next 20 years. The success of MDA is, therefore, dependent on the collaborative efforts of various maritime stake holders, and the integration of technical means of tracking their respective vessels. Comprehensive knowledge of what is happening/occurring at sea in nearby waters is an essential element of both national security and effective management of marine resources/ areas. For coastal states, there are several particularly good reasons why systematic surveillance of proximate sea areas should be undertaken.

The Bay of Bengal, sandwiched between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent – hotbeds for narcotics, human, and small arms narcotics – continues to see a rise in narco-economy and human trafficking.

Almost a million Rohingya refugees from the Rakhine state puts Bangladesh at odds with all these three countries despite outstanding trade and people-to-people contact. Hence, Bangladesh's geostrategic and geopolitical approach to the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean as a whole needs to be seen through a defensive yet collaborative spectrum.

The peaceful resolution of maritime boundaries among Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar shows that greater cooperation leading to new governance regimes is possible. Bangladesh will also have to come up with a policy related Indo Pacific strategy though its core foreign policy is based on friendship to all malice to none.

The maritime order in the Indian Ocean is calm but fragile, primarily because the region lacks overarching security architecture and faces a diverse range of traditional and non-traditional security threats (Shivshankar Menon). What is needed is the application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)? The world's centre of political and economic gravity is moving eastwards to Asia and Africa. The importance of the Indian Ocean needs no reiteration especially for many countries

whose existence, prosperity and security were, and always will be, intimately linked to it.

Maritime orders are positive sum, unlike zero sum territorial orders where territory can only belong to one state or the other. That is not true with maritime orders because it is a public good and there are collective goals such as freedom of navigation. There are also positive effects on trade and economy. Therefore, the Indian Ocean security as a maritime order should be amenable, theoretically at least, to cooperative solutions. It is here that the world's largest trading nations have their interests. Hence, it makes sense to build a maritime order. Of course, the sea is still a source of contention for power. But in today's age, that is realized very differently from the past. Secondly, as mentioned earlier, in the absence of strong and effective security architecture, it is not possible to find pragmatic solutions.

Devising a comprehensive strategy for one of the most diverse, complex, and contested regions in the world is by no means an easy task, and no individual or organization can comprehensively predict the best ways to grapple with Indo-Pacific strategy in the near future with



Maritime Border

pinpoint accuracy (Lutwin 2019).

Therefore, new challenges require new solutions, new institutions, and indeed new norms with genuine commitment. Overemphasizing the geopolitical indicators will



Biggest Mangrove Forrest, Sundarban

only drive the littoral nations away from resolving the decisive threat of all times to the planet and to the existence of humankind – evolving paradigm shifts in climate change and its implications to IOR. The countries should focus on setting up quality maritime infrastructure, with or without

the support of extra-regional actors, without further delay. The choice of investment should be provided by the multilateral institutions – be it the Bretton Woods institution, or BRI institutions, or perhaps any future arrangement under Indo Pacific Strategy, and it should be done bypassing militarization.

The complex interplay among the politics of sea, geopolitics, and geoeconomics, and the emerging challenges, in a nutshell, shows the rise of a new great game in the Indian Ocean. As the region navigates its way through the twenty-first century, policymakers must recognize the

realities and constraints in the Asia-Pacific – the expanding trade, investment, artificial intelligence, unmanned technologies, and movement of goods and natural persons. Interdependence will continue to increase steadily. Therefore, the Indian Ocean should be seen, governed, and managed through a

cooperative approach like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and BIMSTEC.

Hence, Bangladesh's geostrategic and geopolitical approach to the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean as a whole needs to be seen through a defensive yet collaborative spectrum.

Rear Admiral (Retd) Md Khurshed Alam

Secretary
Maritime Affairs Unit
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BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN POLICY COMPULSIONS, CONSTRAINTS, AND CHOICES

-Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP

Policies are ethereal. Instead of a specific set of instructions, it is a general sense of being and a spatial sense of direction as to where we might be heading as a country, or as an institution or even for that matter, as a society or as an individual. Foreign Policy sits at the heart of the art of statecraft. Its evolution is densely non-linear. Foreign Policy deals both with the vernacular and with the elite and everything that falls in between.

The birth of modern Foreign Policy and the international legal regime underwriting it, started with the Treaty of Westphalia. The Treaty gave a shape to the jurisdiction of a very peculiar

form of governance never seen before in the world.

Foreign Policy is a vast area. Almost as complex as that of the human psychology. Foreign Policy is closely related to the vortex of power - another mercurial construct. It is always a constant struggle to gain power, to retain power, and to be accepted as powerful. All forms of security, sustenance, wealth, and wellbeing can be connected to a form of power. A deep understanding of the history, culture and ethnic identities of the human societies - coupled with an ever-increasing understanding of the evolution of political, economic, social, cultural,

technological, environmental, and legal nature of the tangible structures that these societies uphold - under the prying eyes of both the mainstream and social media and above all of the people is what is necessary for contextualizing the foreign policy of any country at any given point in time.

Bangladesh started with scorched earth, three million dead bodies, and two hundred thousand raped women. On 16 December 1971, there was nothing but an indomitable resolve to survive the harsh winters of December. Fifty years have passed since then and what some 'foreign policy' pundits once referred to as a basket case



Two Prime Ministers after the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement

with no hope of survival - has now evolved into a 'development miracle' and a "land of opportunity" under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the able daughter of the assassinated Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Thanks to a strong agricultural sector; a rapidly expanding RMG-led production and export; an unbroken remittance inflow - coupled with robust structural reforms-expanding and reconfiguring public sector investments into the formation of infrastructure assets; diversification of exports - to higher-value brands and

integration of essentially middleware design and software components, have contributed to Bangladesh's journey in becoming an epic saga of determined and charismatic leadership. The Economy of the country has been growing at a sustained rate of more than 6% per annum for the last four decades and had it not been stifled by the sudden onslaught of the COVID19 paradox, it would have been lifted to an 8% paradigm starting 2020. Even after nearly two years of COVID19-induced constrictions, Bangladesh's economy grew an astonishing 5.2% in 2021.

The astute foreign policy dimension of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not only complements but also acts as a primary vortex for international connectivity, fiscal stability, and economic growth. As a sovereign, independent nation-state Bangladesh is formulating its foreign policy goals and objectives to advance its legitimate national interests based on the core dictum of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 'Friendship to All, Malice to None'.

Bangabandhu reached out to both the USA and China despite their institutionalized opposition to the cause of the liberation war. Bangabandhu believed that without peace and stability, no country can develop or prosper, and therefore he wanted Bangladesh to be an 'Island of Peace'. Bangabandhu agreed to join the OIC Summit held in Lahore in February 1974 and much before that, he joined the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Bangabandhu's vision was far-reaching. His address at the UNGA in 1974 called for the sharing of technology and resources on a global scale, so that the human race could begin to enjoy at least the minimal conditions of a decent life. Till now Bangladesh's foreign policy centers on the sharing and leveraging of resources in a symbiotic and synergistic manner to create a better future for all of humanity avoiding confrontations and provocations. Till date, Bangladesh is sheltering 1.1 million Rohingyas from Myanmar despite its own constraints of resources - for not only to guarantee their safe and sustainable return but also to

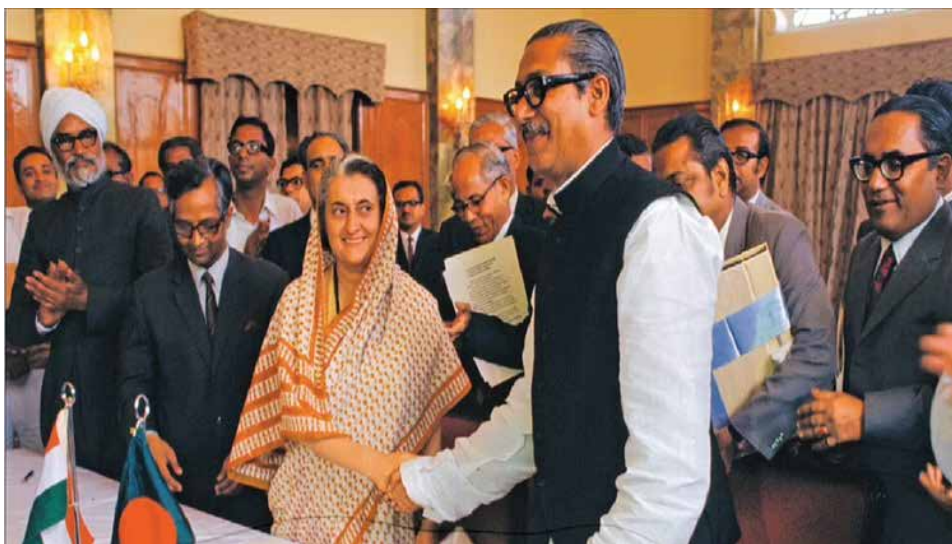


Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting titled 'Forging a CVF COP26 Climate Emerging Pact' in Glasgow, Scotland

ensure justice and accountability - so that the atrocities which they suffered, just like those suffered by the Bengalis in 1971, never happen again, anywhere.

Bangladesh's foreign policy priorities emanate from a deep-rooted wish for synchronizing our efforts with all our neighbors and partners in the geosphere that we share.. We aspire to become a developed country by 2041 and we are working on the Delta Plan for 2100. Pragmatism; Peace and Stability; Humanitarian Responsibilities;

poverty alleviation remains our foremost priority. Our foreign policy priorities intend to complement this objective with a greater depth in external trading - coupled with a greater inflow of foreign remittance. During the next few years, we expect to gain (a) equitable market access, (b) expansion of our export basket, (c) transfer of critical technologies, and (d) employment of our professionals and workers in foreign economies. In the last ten years, we have expanded our global footprint 1.4 times and now we have 78 odd missions and expanding!



Indira Gandhi with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh

Innovation; and Alliance building are some of our preferred instruments of choice.

Bangladesh, under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, pursues a value-based foreign policy. Despite the resource constraints, the Foreign Policy and the Foreign Office have stood up to the challenge. For decades, Foreign Ministry was a rehab for the assassins of the Father of the Nation. But it is no more. With zero tolerance to terrorism, stabilizing the economy and

Our first priority is our immediate neighborhood. We have resolved the seven-decade-old Land Boundary issues with India. We have delimited our maritime boundary with both India and Myanmar by means of arbitration and application of the principles of law. We have embarked on reviving the land and river routes that connected the millennia-old value chains of the Indian sub-continent. We have given port access to our land-locked neighbors like Nepal

and Bhutan, and we have allowed others to use our communication channels for transporting heavy equipment and aid. We have invited China, Japan, and Korea to be our preferred development, trade, and technology partners. Our regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, such as, SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, BBIN, BIN, BCIM, etc. both overlap and complement each other for creating a space for understanding and negotiation which can transcend national 'thought boundaries'. So long as the purpose is a development and the aim is a legitimate civilian objective, we are fully prepared to allow everyone to join hands with us.

In our list of priorities come both the Gulf and the African region. Our commitment to the OIC, to the cause of Palestine, and to the stability of the Ummah concentric to the two Holy Mosques is unquestionable. The principle is enshrined in our constitution itself. We believe that the whole world can reap the benefits from a stable Gulf. More than sixty percent of our expatriate workers are in the Gulf. In the eighties, the bulkhead of the workers migrated at an unskilled level. But the situation has changed now. We are opening avenues for adding more value to their host communities and countries by creating agro-based, ICT-intense and service-driven endeavors. Bangladesh Government is ready to work with joint ventures to retain and retrain retrenched workers from the COVID- 19 pandemic. We have already taken initiatives through yet another OIC affiliate body, the



Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen speaks at the Munich Security Conference in Germany

D-8, of which Bangladesh became the Chair this year to augment our efforts in ensuring public health, productivity, trade, and specialized economic zoning.

Bangladesh and Hon, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are also at the forefront of the global climate diplomacy initiatives. Bangladesh has been very active in all UNFCCC-led negotiations. As one of the most vulnerable countries Bangladesh has been at the forefront to create comprehensive global action to adhere to Climate accords. Bangladesh is leading the Climate Vulnerability Forum (CVF)-an organization of more than one billion people of the world's most vulnerable countries- for the second time.

In last two years, we have launched two specific programmes from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have consolidated Economic Diplomacy as a foreign policy vertical, and we have launched public diplomacy as a priority project.

We envisage our engagements with the complex political theatre of the world in the thematic framework of technology, markets, and organizations which encapsulates the common threads of economy and ecology to secure governance priorities. To multiply the outcome of Economic diplomacy Bangladesh is designing Systems with flexible and adaptable designs;

building 'Infrastructures' with the capacity to host multi-level networks; and developing 'Capabilities' to create and sustain superior technological efficiency. Two of the core areas of our economic diplomacy focus are: (a) the ICT sector-inspired by the ICT Advisor to the Prime Minister Sajeeb Wazed Joy and (b) the Blue Economy sector.

Bangladesh Foreign Policy is now at a critical juncture in time. Choices abound and not all are optimized for the attainment of our national priorities. We must awaken ourselves to understand that a new era has already begun. We will see an AI-driven world order within a very short time- possibly in our own lifetime. What ought to be our preferred behavior for attaining what we desire would be calculated in numbers and percentiles. In spite of these dire shifts in our thought-processing capabilities, I would wish to give empathy, love, and other positive human emotions a chance. Our enemies are hunger, disease, malnutrition, ignorance, intolerance, and hatred. I would like to see a world where tanks and guns would give way to the roses. It is a beautiful world. Let us all see with open eyes and warm hearts.

Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP
PhD & MBA (USA), MPA (Harvard),
LLB, MA, BA (Hons), Dhaka University
Hon'ble Foreign Minister, GoB



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JAIL KILLING: A DARK CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF BANGLADESH

-A.H.M Khairuzzaman Liton

Bangladesh gained its independence from Pakistan through a brutal liberation war in 1971. The reason behind that was the pro-independence front decisively overcame a political struggle to envision an inclusive secular progressive independent country.

The progressive quarter was politically led by the Awami League organization, whereby firebrand Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, already popular as Bangabandhu (friend of Bengalis), was providing both ideological and strategic leadership for years. Mujib was accompanied by a dynamic team of companions, who combined formed the top-tier of the Awami League leadership – namely Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, M. Mansur Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman. These four politicians were instrumental in providing strategic wartime leadership.

After the unfolding of the hard-earned independence, Mujib started leading the government with aim of rebuilding the war-torn country and establishing an inclusive governance process. But the gridlock came from the quarters which has been gained from the Pakistan era colonial system. These quarters are till date known as “pro-Pakistan” or “anti-liberation” forces; essentially the segment which opposed Bangladesh’s independence, who wanted a feudal theocratic regressive society.

3 November is another day of reproach and agony for the collective conscience of Bangladesh. On this day in 1975, the four national leaders, who played the momentous role in our independence and state-building struggle after the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman were brutally killed inside what is usually considered one of the most sacrosanct places for the security of any individual, the safe custody of a jail. Within the bounds of Dhaka Central Jail, in a continuation of the horrors unleashed on 15 August 1975, the four national leaders, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Captain M. Monsur Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, were murdered viciously with bullets and bayonets.

The aim of the killers was simple. Following the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, these four posed the biggest threats to their aspirations of turning back the progress Bangladesh made as an independent country and diluting the spirit of the Liberation War. They were not even afforded the courtesy of a sham trial. The killers went inside Dhaka Central Jail unhindered and finished the job



M. Mansur Ali with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Tajuddin Ahmad



AHM Qamaruzzaman with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

they started on 15 August 1975. Known to be the most honest and capable of all political personalities in Bangladesh, who could not be bought or coerced, the killers knew that these extraordinary gentlemen needed to be taken out for the realization of their nefarious design of throwing Bangladesh into a trajectory radically different from that which was envisaged by its Founding Father.

The enemies of our independence and the liberation war, not only were just satisfied after shooting them with bullets but they stabbed these fine men brutally with their bayonets mutilating their dead bodies. This undoubtedly hindered the nation from going towards the pathway of progress and prosperity. This brutal killing not only made the people of Bangladesh stupefied but also the people of the whole world. The killing of Bangabandhu and these four national leaders were part of the same conspiracy.

The killers and their associates in fact wanted to take revenge for the partition of Pakistan, to throw the nation towards the black hole of genocide and conspiracies which just emerged as an independent nation through bloodshed and the supreme sacrifices of millions. A case was filed in this regard at Lalbagh Police Station. But the investigation and trials had been withheld for a long 21 years as was the case for Bangabandhu's killing as well. It was only after the Awami League came to power in 1996 that the process was re-initiated. After an 8-year-long procession of this case, the Dhaka Metropolitan



Four National Leaders

Sessions Judge Court declared a verdict in the last regime of the government of the four-party alliances on 20th October 2004. The verdict declared 15 of the 20 ex-army officers to be guilty and released the other 5. Among those convicted, 3 fugitives were given capital punishment and the other 12 got life sentences.

The ones who got the death sentence were Sentry Marfot Ali Shah, Sergeant Moslem Uddin alias Hiron Khan and LD Sentry Mohammad Abul Hashem Mridha. And the persons who were given life sentences are: Colonel (retd.) Syed Faruque Rahman, Colonel (retd.) Syed Shahriar Rashid, Major (retd.) Bazlul Huda, Lt. Colonel Khondokar Abdur Rashid (suspended), Lt. Colonel Shariful Haque Dalim, Lt. Colonel (retd.) MHMB Nur Chowdhury, Lt. Colonel (retd.) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt. Colonel (retd.) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Major (suspended) Ahmmed Shariful Hossain, Captain (retd.) Abdul Majed, Captain (suspended) Mohammad Kismat Hossain and Captain (retd.) Nazmul Hossain

Ansar. And the names of the released are: BNP leader late KM Obayedur Rahman, JP leader Shah Moazzem Hossain, ex-minister late Taher Uddin Thakur, Nurur Islam Monjur and Major (retd.) Khayruzzaman.

On 28 August 2008, the verdict of the High Court only kept the death sentence of Sergeant Moslem Uddin but released the other two who got death previously. Sentry Marfot Ali Shah and LD Sentry Mohammad Abul Hashem Mridha and the four other convicted who got life sentences: Lt. Colonel (suspended) Syed Faruque Rahman, Lt. Colonel (retd.) Shahriar Rashid Khan, Major (retd.) Bazlul Huda and Lt. Colonel AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed were also released from the case. Four appeals against the lower court's verdict for the four convicted for a life sentence and the death reference resolutions were finalized by a high court bench formed by judge Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and judge Ataur Rahman Khan and given the new verdict.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders

Even though the verdict to this case was given very delayed, the family members of the national leaders and various sources dubbed this verdict as 'politically motivated and 'farcical' and were rejected. They complained that nobody was punished for planning the conspiracy of the Jail Killing. They demanded a re-investigation and re-trial of the heinous massacre.

Although been released in this Jail Killing case, Lt. Colonel (retd.) Syed Faruque Rahman, Lt. Colonel (retd.) Shahriar Rashid Khan, Major (retd.) Bazlul Huda and Lt. Colonel (retd.) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed - these four among the convicted for death sentence in the case of Bangabandhu assassination case were executed on 27th

January 2010. And as the high court verdict didn't have any new remarks about the eight fugitives who were convicted for life are explained to have retained punishment by the lawyers.

As the greater alliance led by Awami League again came to power on 29th December 2008, the opportunity to re-trial for

this Jail Killing was open again. On 1st November 2012, the prosecution submitted a summary of the appeal of the case of Jail Killing to the appellate division of the Supreme Court, and the procession for re-trial has been started again. On 30th April 2013, the appellate division on a brief verdict dismissed the verdict given by the high court



in 2008 and retained the verdict of 2004 given in the lower court. Which is, the three fugitives, Sergeant Moslem Uddin alias Hiron Khan, Sentry Marfot Ali Shah and LD Sentry Mohammad Abul Hashem Mridha were given death sentences and the other 12 were given life imprisonment. The full verdict was released in 2015.

Why the killing was a planned one:

The two 1975 assassination spree of the top political leadership ought to be seen as part of the same thread. The aim was simple: deprive Bangladesh of a progressive resilient future. After Mujib's assassination, the plotters identified the four political leaders as a legitimate threat

who could reunite the progressive forces and mount a challenge.

Nazrul, Tajuddin, Mansur Ali and Qamaruzzaman stuck to their deep commitment to Bangladesh's founding values: Bengali identity, secularism, social justice, and democracy. They straight up opposed the coup-backed illegitimate government.

The plotters believed that with the elimination of Awami League's leadership, no one would be left to mobilize the people and organize a resistance. The killing was a very calculated act, an act of revenge on the part of the anti-liberation forces of 1971.

A.H.M Khairuzzaman Liton
Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation
& Son of Late A H M Qamaruzzaman

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ROHINGYA CRISIS AND LEGAL JOURNEY AT ICJ

-Imran Khan

On 22nd July 2022, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered its judgment on Myanmar's preliminary objections to the Gambia's claims regarding Myanmar's violation of the Genocide Convention. The court rejected the preliminary objections and confirmed its jurisdiction about the admissibility of the application of Gambia.

Around five years after the Myanmar military launched its horrific campaign of genocide and terror against Rohingya, this judgment shows the hope of light for justice. The genocide sparked one of the largest mass

migrations in recent history, driving around one million Rohingya out of the country.

Background of the Case

On November 2019, with the support of the 57 members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – The Gambia filed a case before the ICJ alleging that the crimes against the Rohingya in Rakhine State violate the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ("Genocide Convention"). The case conveyed under Article IX of the Convention, which allows disputes between parties "relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide" to be

submitted to the ICJ. The Gambia and Myanmar both are parties to the Genocide Convention.

Myanmar ratified the Genocide Convention in 1956 and Gambia declared its accession in 1978. Gambia claimed that Myanmar's acts were in contravention of the Genocide Convention under Articles I, III (a), III (b), III (c), III (d), III (e), IV, V, and VI.

Objections of Myanmar

In January 2021, Myanmar made four preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the court and the admissibility of the application. These are:-
1) Gambia is not the "real applicant," but rather a proxy representative of OIC;



Peace Palace in Hague, Seat of the International Court of Justice

2) Gambia lacked standing to bring the case before the Court because it was not an “injured State”;

3) Reservation to Article VIII of the Genocide Convention, which allows States Parties to call on the “competent organs of the U.N.” to take action to prevent and suppress genocide, ought to preclude action by the ICJ; and

4) There was no “dispute” between the Parties.

Key Findings of the Judgment

In February 2022, the ICJ held public hearings devoted to the

preliminary objections raised by Myanmar. Finally, ICJ rejected the objections on July 22, 2022. In summary, the ruling of the court as:

1) In response of the first observation on the “real applicant”, the court pointed out the fact that Gambia may have accepted the OIC’s proposal to initiate the proceedings, or that it may have sought and obtained political and financial support from OIC to file the case, does not detract from its status as the applicant. The motivation behind the commencement of proceedings is irrelevant for establishing the court’s

jurisdiction. The court also rejected Myanmar’s contention that The Gambia’s claims are inadmissible due to the abuse of process. Considering that Gambia has been recognized as the “real applicant,” there is no evidence showing that Gambia’s conduct amounts to an abuse of process.

2) In response to the second observation on the “injured State”, the Court referred that-Genocide Convention is not about any individual advantage or disadvantage of a state, but rather for the achievement of common purposes. Any Party may invoke the responsibility of any other Party for an alleged breach of its obligations.

3) Article VIII specifies that the competent organs of the United Nations may “take such action . . . as they consider appropriate,” which suggests that these organs exercise discretion in determining the actions for “the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III.” The function of the “competent organs” under Article VIII is to address the prevention and suppression of genocide at the political level, which is different from the function of the court.

According to the court, Article IX explains the conditions for recourse to the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, whereas Article VIII allows any contracting party to appeal to the political organs of the United Nations. It follows that Article VIII does not govern the seisin of the court. Therefore, the third preliminary objection was rejected.



The International Court of Justice



A Rohingya man carries his mother after crossing from Myanmar into Bangladesh

4) The court dismissed Myanmar's objection regarding the non-existence of the dispute. The court observed that Myanmar was informed, through the reports of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar in 2018 and 2019; where the allegations against it concerning violations of the Genocide Convention. The court also pointed out that the requirement of "mutual awareness" based on explicitly opposed positions, as advanced by Myanmar, has no basis in law.

Based on the Fact-Finding Mission reports, the exchange between the parties at the U.N. General Assembly, and the Gambia's Note Verbale (as well as Myanmar's non-response to that note), the court concluded that there was a legal dispute between the parties.

Thus, the Court ruled that it has jurisdiction to hear the case and that Gambia's application is admissible.

International feedbacks

European Union affirmed their support; U.K. and Germany

announced their intention to intervene in support of Gambia (the Applicant State) for this case. Recently, the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) of the UN has approved draft resolutions on the human rights issue of Myanmar.

In April 2021, U.S. Senator Edward Markey introduced a bill titled with "Rohingya Genocide Determination Act of 2021" to the senate, which would require

the U.S. Department of State to submit a report to Congress on whether the persecution of the Rohingya by the Myanmar security forces constitutes genocide under U.S. law. The report shall also contain a description of U.S. government actions to ensure that those responsible are held accountable, and recommendations on further actions to take to ensure accountability and to prevent further mass atrocity crimes in Myanmar. The bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations for review.

The United States government has also formally determined the genocide. On March 2022, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a speech at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC announced it officially. Since the Holocaust, this is the eighth genocide, which has been marked by the United States.

Next Steps

The court will now proceed to



Rohingya refugees stage a 'Go home campaign' rally demanding repatriation to at Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar on June 19, 2022

hear the case on its own merits. Genocide cases in international courts and tribunals are rare and difficult to run because the crime is too hard to prove. This judgment is vital for a few reasons – this is the first case since the Balkans cases before the ICJ relating to the Genocide Convention.



Rohingya Refugees

The ICJ has only considered a State's responsibility for genocide twice before – the Bosnian Genocide Case judgment of 2007 and Croatia v Serbia in 2015. Moreover, because the ICJ has never found a State responsible for genocide, it has never considered a State's responsibility to provide restitution and compensation to the victims, which is part of Gambia's application in this case.

Among other things, Gambia asked that Myanmar: allow the

safe and dignified return of the Rohingya to their places of residence; return property taken from the Rohingya; protect the Rohingya against discrimination and persecution; and provide the Rohingya with citizenship, freedom of movement, and access to employment and livelihoods without discrimination. There is a long road ahead to achieve justice for the Rohingya. The ruling of the ICJ is binding on Myanmar, and cannot be appealed. However, no means

are available to the court to enforce it. Gambia has to prove genocidal acts committed by Myanmar authorities. On these terms, Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (IIFFMM) report will be the ground base to prove.

Under Article 41(2) of the ICJ Statute, the

court's order for provisional measures is automatically sent to the UN Security Council. Security Council members should take steps to address the failure to secure justice and security for the Rohingya. Council members should work to adopt a resolution that gives the International Criminal Court (ICC) a mandate over the situation in Myanmar and severs the junta's supply of arms and revenue, even if the resolution would be vetoed by Russia or China.

Imran Khan

Banker | Policy Analyst
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JAPAN BANGLADESH 50 YEARS



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the then Prime Minister of Japan Kakuei Tanaka at a reception during his visit to Japan in 1973.



37 Prime Minister of Japan greets Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Narita Airport during his visit to Japan



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the then Prime Minister of Japan Kakuei Tanaka & Mrs. Tanaka



The first photograph shows Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's arrival in Japan in 1973. Sheikh Rehana, Sheikh Rusel, and the picture. The second photograph shows Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Japan Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the then Prime Minister of Japan Kakuei Tanaka



Sheikh Russel and the then Foreign Minister Dr. Kamal Hossain are also seen in the photograph. Sheikh Russel and Sheikh Rehana surrounded by Japanese children.



Sheikh Russel is seen being greeted in modern technological style back then during his trip to Japan in 1973 with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Rehana.

DIPLOMATS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF THAILAND-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP

The diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Thailand was established following Thailand's recognition of Bangladesh on 5 October 1972. Thailand opened its Embassy in Dhaka in 1974 and Bangladesh established its Embassy in Bangkok in 1975 at the ambassadorial level. Since the establishment of resident Missions, both countries have been working for strengthening their bilateral relations for mutual benefits. Bangladesh and Thailand enjoy an excellent bilateral relationship which is deeply rooted in religious, cultural, and linguistic linkages of the two countries.

The year 2012 was a very significant year in the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Thailand. This year was the 40th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Thailand. Prime Minister of Thailand Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra paid an Official Visit to Bangladesh on 21-22 December 2012 at the invitation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This was the first Official Visit by a Thai Head of Government to Bangladesh in almost a decade. The Thai Prime Minister led a 108-member official and business delegation, which included, among others, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Industry, and other Ministers. This visit has imparted a significant boost to the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Thailand.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's very successful visits to Bangladesh thrice in less than two years in December 2011, February 2010, and in May 2018, have also added greater momentum to the cooperative engagement between the two countries.

Bangladesh and Thailand are close partners and greatly value each other in their respective foreign policy matrix. Mr. Kasit Piromya, former Foreign Minister of Thailand visited Bangladesh in June 2009 to hold bilateral consultations on issues of common interests. Foreign Ministerial interactions during these visits further strengthened the bilateral ties and expanded the horizon of our bilateral relations.





Palm Jumeirah, The palm tree-shaped Jumeirah island off the coast of Dubai is an artificial archipelago created by land reclamation

UAE LOOKS FORWARD TO STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH

-AKM Sayedad Hossain

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is situated in the Southeast of the Arabian Peninsula, bordering Oman and Saudi Arabia. In December 1971, the UAE became a federation of six emirates - Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al-Quwain, and Fujairah, while the seventh emirate, Ras Al Khaimah, joined the federation in 1972. The capital city is Abu Dhabi, located in the largest and wealthiest of the seven emirates.

Since its Federation in 1971, the UAE has developed rapidly and is now noted for its modern infrastructure, international events, and status as a trade and transport hub. In 2021, the UAE commemorated its

Golden Jubilee, 50 years since the federation.

The UAE will host the COP28 international climate summit in Dubai in 2023.

Political overview

The President of the UAE is His

Highness (HH) Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Ruler of Dubai, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is the Vice-President, Prime Minister, and Defence Minister.

The UAE's federal structure includes a Supreme Council (comprising the Rulers of each Emirate), a Council of Ministers, and a Federal National Council. Each Emirate is governed by its own Ruler, with its own local government, courts, and police forces.

The Federal National Council comprises 40 members, half of which are appointed and half elected. Elections were last held in October 2019 and for the



H.E. Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, met with the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan



H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai with Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina

first time, the UAE implemented a requirement for 50 per cent of total members to be women. This requirement saw a significant increase in the number of female candidates. The Federal National Council has an advisory role and is a forum in which concerns of Emiratis are raised.

The UAE is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the World Trade Organization. The International Renewable Energy Agency, established in 2009, has its headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

Islam is the official religion and Arabic is the official language. The United Arab Emirates' oil and natural gas reserves are the world's sixth and seventh-largest, respectively. Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi and the country's first president, oversaw the development of the Emirates by investing oil revenues into healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

The United Arab Emirates has the most diversified economy among the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In the 21st century, the country has become less reliant on oil and gas and is economically focusing on tourism and business. The government does not levy income tax, although there is a corporate tax in place and a 5% value-added tax was established in 2018.

Ties with the UAE

As Bangladesh celebrates Victory Day in December, it's a coincidence that both Bangladesh and the UAE started

their journey as independent states in the same year. The United Arab Emirates emerged as an independent nation on December 2, 1971.

Both countries were fortunate to have two great leaders of all time, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the late Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as their founding fathers who united their countrymen and led them towards a brighter future with a common aspiration for peace, progress, and prosperity.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with the UAE which are based on shared faith, culture, and traditions. Bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the UAE have grown steadily over the years and are being strengthened and diversified. Bangladeshi skilled and semi-skilled professionals contributed during the initial development phase of the new country, UAE." (no need quotation)

The foundation of the relationship between the two countries was laid by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu



(UAE Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Abdulla Ali ALHmoudi presented his credentials to President H.E. Abdul Hamid



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, received H.E. Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, at the Dubai Airshow during her visit to the UAE as head of a Bangladeshi military delegation

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during his historic visit to the UAE in 1974. The people of Bangladesh fondly remember the 10-day visit of the UAE's Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan to Bangladesh in 1984 which took the bilateral relations to a new height.

The current annual trade volume between Bangladesh and UAE is around \$1.8 billion.

Today, an estimated 800,000-strong Bangladeshi workforce is in the UAE. Bangladeshi entrepreneurs are also running various businesses here.

On the eve of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of both nationhood, it is New high time to take our relationship to a new height. UAE's centennial vision 2071 and Initiatives of the next

50. We also have Vision 2041 and Delta Plan 2100.

To realise the above-mentioned development targets and visions, Bangladesh is keen to work together with the UAE by establishing a 'comprehensive economic partnership' with a view to tapping maximum mutual benefit from huge potentials the two countries offer to each other.

The two sides discussed collaboration on food security, energy and power, civil aviation, the blue economy, and climate change. They also touched on a roadmap for future cooperation, including high-level visits to mark the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh-UAE Diplomatic Relations in 2024.

The leaders of the UAE are carrying with them the visions of the founding fathers and continuing the development of the country, they have remained committed to build a better society and upholding the ideals and principles of their ancestors.



Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Nahyan gives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a picture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with his father, which was taken during Bangabandhu's visit to the UAE

The bilateral trade between the two countries in 2021 stood at US\$1.8 billion.

Abdulla Ali Al Hmoudi, however, has expressed the hope though UAE investment in Bangladesh, the trade gap between two countries will come down. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid an official visit to the UAE during 07-12 March, 2022 at the invitation of the Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Cabinet



The loftiest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa is a must-see and one of the best tourist attractions in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Member and Minister of Culture and Youth has received Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her accompanying delegation at the Abu Dhabi International Airports.

Both Prime Ministers of UAE and Bangladesh witnessed the signing of several MoUs aimed at boosting cooperation between the UAE and Bangladesh. The

first MoU for cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific research was signed by Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, UAE's Minister of Education, and Dr. AK Abdul Momen, Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Minister. Another MoU for cooperation in the field of diplomatic training was signed by H.E. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) and Masud bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh.

“The Bangladeshi Prime Minister’s recent successful visit to UAE ushers a new era that would facilitate further bilateral economic and commercial ties and people-to-people contacts between the countries,” said H.E. Abdulla Ali AlHmoudi.

He added, “The UAE-Bangladesh bilateral relationship has historically been based on mutual respect and meaningful cooperation. The UAE government appreciates and appraises continued friendship with Bangladesh and the warmth of this special relationship has also showcased during the last visit.” Welcoming Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum highlighted the deep ties between the UAE and Bangladesh and the importance of strengthening bilateral relations to further the mutual interests of the two countries.

AKM Sayedad Hossain
Associate Editor
Diplomats Publication

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MESSAGE



Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

The UAE, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may God protect him, continues the path of national development and economic growth as an extension of the legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may God rest their souls, and the future model of the UAE.

The progress, development and prosperity that we enjoy nowadays in the UAE goes hand in hand with a balanced foreign policy that allows our country to gain greater respect in its diplomatic presence and further boost its friendly relations around the world.

The UAE adopts economic strategies that stimulate economic diversification and the UAE has also launched a package of strategic projects and initiatives within the “Projects of the 50”, which aim to establish an advanced stage of internal and external growth. The projects provide impetus for investment in digital and circular economies, as well as sectors based on artificial intelligence and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The UAE supports diplomacy over conflict, partnership over unilateralism, and dialogue over confrontation. It urges respect for the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, while seeking to develop existing alliances and strengthen foreign relations to support its domestic development and international engagement.

We remain grateful to our leadership, which spares no effort to raise the nation and achieve the well-being and happiness of its citizens and residents.

I would like to commend the bilateral relations which join between our two friendly countries. These ties are based on the principles of cooperation and mutual respect and the partnership between the two countries and peoples have reached a new height in recent years. The mutual visits of the leaders and officials of the two countries, and the ever-increasing levels of trade, economic and cultural exchange, are a powerful indicator that stands witness to the strength of bilateral relations in various fields.

Finally, I wish a blessed year for the UAE filled with constant progress and prosperity.

Thank you.

H.E. Abdulla Ali ALHmoudi
Ambassador, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Dhaka

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Bangladesh-Oman Bilateral Relations!

The bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the Sultanate of Oman are traditionally warm, cordial, and friendly.

The Sultanate recognized Bangladesh after its Independence in the 1970s.

Oman was one of the first Arab countries to extend support to Bangladesh's membership at the UN and other international organizations.

Bangladesh established its diplomatic representation in Muscat in March 1983 at the level of Charge d' Affairs. Bangladesh upgraded its mission in Oman in 1995 at the level of Ambassador.

Ever since the two brotherly countries have been maintaining close contact and cordial relations. Currently, there are more than seven hundred thousand Bangladeshi workers and professionals working in different sectors in Oman.





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ECONOMIC TRENDS OF BANGLADESH: FORECASTS TOWARDS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL REGIONAL COLLABORATION

-Sayed Sanzida Afrin

The length of the Russia-Ukraine conflict will have a significant impact on its aftermath. The rising cost of imported crude oil is already placing an increasing amount of strain on Bangladesh's external balance of payments. The effects of price speculating on the international edible oil markets have undoubtedly disrupted the domestic market, prompting inconsistent government action to regulate the price within a predetermined range. Wheat and fertilizers are two more crucial imports for which there is uncertainty due to price increases worldwide as well as concerns about their availability on international markets. The

question now is how far the government can shield us from rising import costs by giving various industries subsidies.

Among all these geopolitical and economic turmoil, the growth estimate for Bangladesh for the fiscal year 2022–2023 has been reduced by the International Monetary Fund to 6%. The Washington-based lender revised down its April forecast of 6.7% growth in its most recent World Economic Outlook report, citing increasing energy and food prices, inflation, higher interest rates, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. According to the report, inflation in Bangladesh might rise as high as 8.5% this fiscal

year. Both the World Bank's and the IMF's projections are on the same page. The Asian Development Bank has previously decreased its prediction for Bangladesh's GDP growth for this fiscal year from 7.1% to 6.6%.

Thus, it boils down to the amount of room for maneuvering within the government's fiscal constraints. Sadly, that area has become smaller as a result of the rising cost of repaying the nation's debt, which is currently consuming a growing amount of tax money. To handle the Covid issue and, more specifically, of paying for the mega-projects, the government has turned to



Foreign Minister DR. A.K. Abdul Momen addresses the Indian Ocean Rim Association Business Forum Leadership summit in Dhaka

expanded deficit financing through both domestic and international borrowing. Although the post-Covid export rebound has been praised, it has not been sufficient to stop the trade balance or even the total external balance from developing a gaping hole. Even while the level of foreign exchange reserves may still appear to be comfortable, the Bangladesh Bank cannot possibly continue to defend the taka-dollar exchange rate.

Given that the major portions of debt service will start during the upcoming medium-term timeframe, we need to have a sufficient buffer against the effects of repaying loans obtained for the mega-projects. In terms of the near term, it is probable that the devaluation of the taka will stoke imported inflation. As a result, the poor will need greater social safety net protection and other forms of assistance, and low-middle-class families would undoubtedly have difficulties as a result. Bangladeshis are worried about the possibility of an external insolvency crisis similar to that in Sri Lanka. Given Bangladesh's

existing macro-financial characteristics, the option seems doubtful. There are, however, lessons to be learned.

According to the most recent study by HSBC Global Research, Bangladesh is set to make the highest jump in the ranks of the world's economies in 2030, moving up from 42nd to 26th, despite all of these challenges and possible dangers. On the list of the largest risers, Bangladesh would be followed by the Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Malaysia. A nation's potential for progress is significantly influenced by its starting place. The research, which was just released, stated that a nation like Bangladesh has a far higher potential for growth than one like Norway, which is much richer.

Furthermore, as Europe and the US are Bangladesh's top export markets, there is a great danger to their economies and financial stability, which puts pressure on

the nation's manufacturers and exporters. According to Faruque Hassan, president of the BGMEA, our clothing exports would be significantly impacted if this inflationary pressure causes an economic slowdown in our top export markets. Bangladesh should examine these economies' patterns and export goods in accordance with them, however major economies like those of Japan, South Korea, Australia, China, and Middle Eastern nations may just barely avoid the worst effects of the recession. According to Mohiuddin Rubel, director of the BGMEA, maintaining the present growth rate will be extremely challenging if there is a global economic downturn.

The World Bank projected that the growth of Bangladesh would be significantly higher than the average of the region, with an estimate of 5.8% average growth for South Asian countries, down one percentage point from the previous forecast made in June, despite revising down the GDP forecast for the upcoming fiscal year. Bangladesh would rank as the third-largest grower in the area, behind India's 7% growth and the Maldives' 8.2% growth. Sri Lanka's economy would contract by 4.2%. Bangladesh will have much higher growth



Garment Workers

than Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan. Increased inflation and ongoing power outages, according to a World Bank press release, have slowed Bangladesh's post-Covid economic recovery. For policymakers, keeping track of

that the globe will have even more difficulty in 2023 and that several nations would experience catastrophic problems like a recession. Through commerce, remittances, and investment,

India and the United States (US). Once more, the US is Bangladesh's principal provider of FDI (FDI).

In the most recent fiscal year, bilateral commerce between Bangladesh and China totalled \$20 billion, with a trade balance that was substantially skewed in favour of China as Bangladesh purchased commodities worth \$19.34 billion from the second-largest economy in the world. During the same period, bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India increased from \$9.87 billion in FY21 to \$15.68 billion in FY22. Bangladesh suffered a huge trade imbalance with its neighbour since its export to India is still considerably lower than its imports, which totalled \$13.70 billion in the previous fiscal year compared to \$1.98 billion in exports.

Initiated by China in 2010, duty-free market access for Least

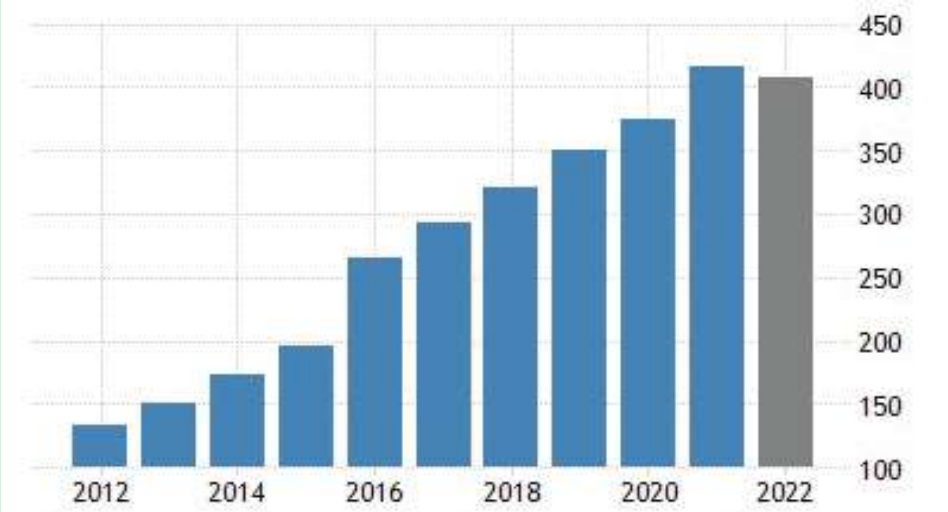
PROJECTED RANKING CHANGES BY 2030 COMPARED WITH 2018			
BIGGEST ECONOMIES (IN 2030)		BIGGEST RISERS	
COUNTRY	RANKING CHANGE	COUNTRY	RANKING CHANGE
China	+1 (2 to 1)	Bangladesh	+16 (42 to 26)
US	-1 (1 to 2)	Philippines	+11 (38 to 27)
India	+4 (7 to 3)	Pakistan	+10 (40 to 30)
Japan	-1 (3 to 4)	Vietnam	+8 (47 to 39)
Germany	-1 (4 to 5)	Malaysia	+ 5 (34 to 29)

SOURCE: HSBC ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

economic trends is challenging due to a dearth of trustworthy high-frequency data.

In a meeting of the executive committee of the national economic council (ECNEC) on October 11, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina once more urged people to exercise prudence while keeping the situation in the world in mind. Earlier, addressing a program she said: "I am again urging all to be active in enhancing food production, so the people of Bangladesh don't face any suffering during the world economic recession. We have to do our arrangement on our own." She said: "There is no other way, except becoming cautious, saving, and maintaining austerity. Apart from this, also boost production to be self-reliant in food." The prime minister informed the media that during her discussions with international leaders outside of the UN General Assembly, they voiced concern

Bangladesh is today intricately entwined with the world economy. In the most recent fiscal year (FY22), the country's goods trade value totalled US\$141.24 billion, and its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to be \$464.98 billion.



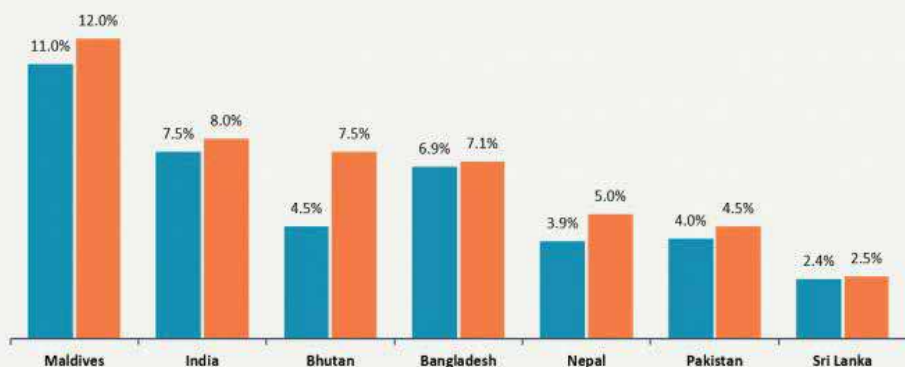
Thus, the trade-GDP ratio was about 30% in the most recent fiscal year, compared to an average ratio of 27% during the previous five years. Currently, China is Bangladesh's main trading partner, followed by

Developed Countries (LDCs) saw Bangladesh partially profit from it in 2015, when 61% of the nation's exports were permitted to take advantage of the zero-duty program. China announced a tariff remission for

How ADB sees South Asian economies' growth

Real GDP growth rate

■ 2022 ■ 2023



Note: Years represent fiscal years of respective countries

97% of Bangladeshi imports starting on July 1, 2020, five years later. As a result, a total of 8,256 items from Bangladesh are subject to this zero-tariff treatment, with the requirement that they must undergo 40% local value addition in order to qualify. Nevertheless, after peaking at \$949.41 million in FY17, Bangladesh's exports to China primarily exhibited a declining trend. Due mostly to Covid-19, exports to China decreased to \$600 million in FY20, and they reached \$683.43 million in FY22.

Bangladesh is now benefiting from India's "Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme," which was implemented in 2008 as a result of the decision made at the World Trade Organization's Hong Kong Ministerial Conference (MC6) (WTO). Currently, 98.2% of all items

produced in India are accessible tariff-free thanks to the DFTP Scheme. Additionally, Bangladesh received certain tariff advantages via the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), even though SAFTA is now on life support. Additionally, certain Bangladeshi producers have increased their marketing efforts, which has increased shipments to India.

While speaking at the Leadership Summit of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum's opening ceremony at the Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka, the foreign minister AK Abdul Momen noted that there was a need for continuous discourse among stakeholders to identify and consider the different economic concerns facing the area. In order to

maximize the benefits of the blue economy, Bangladesh has asked the 23 nations that make up the Indian Ocean Rim Association to cooperate more closely. "One of the essential elements of sustainable development is the wise utilization of marine resources. Therefore, we think that a balanced combination of the economic, social, and environmental aspects of growth is necessary to promote the regional vision for the blue economy" the foreign minister stated.

The likelihood of a global economic recession is rising, according to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other economic forums and research organizations, as a result of rising interest rates, inflation, and slowing economic growth globally. If officials do not address the current inflation and electricity issue, economists and business leaders in Bangladesh have warned of the severe impacts of the recession. Although there is no precise indicator of economic recession in Bangladesh, according to the former division leader at the IMF, our development progress will be slowed rather than experiencing a downturn. To lessen Bangladesh's vulnerability to the impending recession, officials must continue to focus on controlling inflation.

Sayed Sanzida Afrin
Women Entrepreneur



আনোয়ারা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল (প্রাঃ)

বঙ্গবন্ধু সরণি ভৈরব-২৩৫০

মোবাইল: ০১৮ ৭৮১০ ০৬০৩, ০১৮ ৭৮১০ ০৬১৬, ০১৭ ১১৪৬ ৫৮৩৪, ০১৯ ১৯৬৬ ০৭৮৯ ফোন: ০২ ৯৮ ৭০৭৭৯

গৌরবের ৩০ বছর

দীর্ঘ ৩০ বছর যাবৎ আমরা আছি
স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিয়ে আপনাদের পাশে



এক নজরে আমাদের সেবা সমূহ

- বহিঃ বিভাগ
- আন্তঃ বিভাগ (কেবিন ও ওয়ার্ড সহ)
- সার্জারী (সার্বক্ষণিক)
- লিভার ও মেডিসিন
- হৃদরোগ ও বক্ষব্যর্থি
- স্ত্রীরোগ
- নাক, কান, গলা
- অর্থোপেডিক
- ফিজিওথেরাপি
- রঙ্গিন আল্ট্রাসোনোগ্রাফি 2D/4D
- রঙ্গিন ইকোকার্ডিওগ্রাফি/ Color Dopler
- কম্পিউটারাইজড ইসিজি
- ডিজিটাল এক্স-রে (CR)
- কম্পিউটারাইজড প্যাথলজী
- হরমোন টেস্ট (কোরিয়া/জার্মান মেশিনের মাধ্যমে)
- সেল কাউন্টার (জাপান)
- ভিডিও এনডোস্কপি (কালার)
- সিগময়ডোস্কপি (কালার) Olympus Japan
- কলোনোস্কপি (কালার) Olympus Japan
- প্রক্টোস্কপি
- লেরিংগোস্কপি (FOL) কালার
- লেপারোস্কপি (USA/German)
- TURP (না কেটে প্রস্টেট অপসারণ)
- প্রি-মেডিকেল চেক আপ



BIRSRESTHA MOHAMMAD HAMIDUR RAHMAN: THE YOUNGEST PRIVATE WHO DEMONSTRATED A PARAGON OF SACRIFICE

-Dr. Kazi Ertaza Hassan, CIP

The highest military honor given in Bangladesh is called the "Bir Sreshtha." It receives the highest honor for bravery. It is comparable to the British Victoria Cross or the American Medal of Honor. It was given to seven liberation warriors who exhibited the utmost bravery in perilous circumstances throughout the conflict and lost their lives fighting for Bangladesh's independence. In addition to this honor, Bangladesh also offers three other gallantry awards. The other three gallantry medals are called "Bir Uttom," "Bikrom," and "Protik." Following the successful Liberation War of Bangladesh, all of these prizes were first given out in 1971.

The Bangladesh Gazette announced the Bir Sreshtha



Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman

Award on December 15, 1973. During the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, all of the holders of this honor were killed in action. For their nation and their independence, these seven heroes favored accepting immortal death. They never gave their independence and country a second consideration. They exhibited the highest levels of patriotism and were incredibly brave. These seven warriors forbade the enemy from being present on the land, at sea, or in the air. They made an effort to protect their air, sea, and land for the coming generation. They significantly aided in Bangladesh's liberation and left a lasting imprint on history.

During the Bangladesh Liberation War, Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman served in the Bangladesh Army as a Sepoy (the US Army's equivalent of a Private), and he was posthumously given the Bir Shrestha, the nation's highest honor for valor on the battlefield. On October 28, 1971, Hamidur Rahman was killed near Dhalai, Sylhet, while attempting to take the Pakistani

Army's position, which was eventually overrun by the advancing Mukti Bahini column.

Hamidur Rahman was born in 1945 in the West Bengali village of Dumuria in the Chapra Thana district of the 24 Parganas. Following the partition of India in 1947, his family moved to East Bengal and eventually made a permanent home at Gharoda in the Khalispur district of Khulna. He attended Khalispur Primary School for his elementary schooling before continuing his studies at a nearby night school. On February 2, 1971, he enlisted in the East Bengal Regiment and was assigned to the EBR center in Chittagong Cantonment. Hamidur Rahman left the Cantonment for his village home in response to the Pakistani army's onslaught on March 25. He later joined the liberation force at Dhalai, which is located on the south-western edge of Kamalganj Thana in the Maulvibazar district.

The Freedom Fighters made a bid to take control of the

Pakistani army's border station at Dhalai because of its strategic importance. Hamidur Rahman was enlisted into the First East Bengal Regiment's "C" Company to carry out the mission. From the evening of October 24 to dusk on October 27, there were continuous clashes between the Freedom Fighters and the Pakistani military without any discernible outcome. On the night of October 27, three Freedom Fighter platoons moved secretly in the direction of the outpost. As the platoons drew closer to the opposing position and were about to execute a surprise attack, a mine suddenly exploded, alarming the adversaries, who began firing indiscriminately.

Hours of fighting later, the Freedom Fighters' approach was significantly hampered by enemy LMG fire coming from the north-east. Hamidur Rahman then instantly vowed to destroy the enemy's LMG post at this crucial moment. Hamidur Rahman assumed control of the grenade tossing at this crucial moment and crept through the rocky channels. In the shadows, he broke away, crept silently in the direction of the LMG post, assaulted and killed the two LMG operators, and then silenced the enemy weapons. Even after being hit in the knee and chest by a bullet, Hamidur Rahman ran to the opposing machine-gun position, where he engaged the two men protecting the weapon in hand-to-hand combat, eventually neutralizing the weapon.

However, he was slain by an enemy bullet wound right after his demonstration of bravery

(28 October 1971). The EBR quickly advanced toward the enemy and captured their first line after understanding that the machine gun outpost had been disabled. As a result, the battle's momentum shifted, and the Freedom Fighters took control of the outpost. After the capture of the Dhalai Border Outpost, members of the EBR found the dead body of Rahman in the enemy bunker with a smile of satisfaction glowing over his

with proper respect and solemnity. The heroic martyred freedom fighter's remains were transported by road from the neighboring Indian state of Tripura to Comilla's Bibirbazar land port. There were thousands of people there at the time, along with military and government representatives from both nations. His remains were transported from Agartala Circuit House to the "zero point" on the Indian side of the border



Memorial of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman

face. The Freedom Fighters then transported Hamidur Rahman's body 30 kilometers into the interior, where it was interred in Aambasa in the Tripura Kingdom. At the site of his death, near the Dhalai border, a monument was eventually built.

After lengthy 36 years after his martyrdom during a struggle with Pakistani occupation troops, Birshreshtha Sipahi Mohammad Hamidur Rahman's remains were finally returned to his beloved nation on December 10, 2007,

by a car of the Tripura Rifles, where Acting Commander of the 19 BSF Sree Wasni Yogi laid a wreath on the casket. The remains were then given to Acting Commander of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Comilla Lt Col Noor-e-Alam by a well-attired group of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) under the command of 11 Battalion Assistant Commander Sree RSK Saxena.

At the border, Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman was given the

guard of honor by a BDR contingent that was well-dressed. Driver Keramat Ullah of a BDR pick-up van drove the coffin a short distance under the direction of Havilder Afaz Uddin. The casket was then accepted by Major Md. Lutful Hasan on behalf of the 34 Bengal Regiment Commander of the Bangladesh Army, and it was draped in the country's flag. A group of Bangladeshi soldiers carried the casket on their shoulders and kept the remains on the ornate platform known as "Tiger Minor." There was a substantial portrait of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman behind the podium. After placing a wreath on the coffin, Comilla Major General Abdul Hafiz, psc, the 33 Infantry Division's sector commander, ordered the Bangladesh Army to present a guard of honor. As the bugle played, they stood silently.

His remains were then sent to the capital for the final burial. After then, the freedom fighter had been buried in the Martyr Intellectual Graveyard with full military honors in the presence of President Ijauddin Ahmed, who was then the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. Before the 37th Victory Day on December 16, Bangladesh's interim administration chose to return Rehman's remains home. The arrival of the remains of Bangladesh's youngest Bir Shreshtha was announced with a 21-gun salute.

The brave sacrifice of Bir Shreshtha Mohammad Hamidur Rahman has motivated the freedom fighters in the conflict and contributed to writing a



Birsrestha Hamidur Rahman Monument

glorious chapter in human history. These seven stood out as true heroes during the conflict and had no fear of dying. As they took care of Independence, they dared to accept death. The efforts and accomplishments of our combat heroes and martyrs must always be remembered and honored. The families of our fallen heroes, some of whom still live in poverty, and maimed and uncared-for liberation fighters want our assistance more than ever. Do not forget that without acknowledging the efforts of its founders, no country deserving of the name can stand tall.

Dr. Kazi Ertaza Hasan, CIP

Exclusive Business Associate, Brunei Halal Foods, Brunei Darussalam
Director FBCCI & Chairperson VORER PATA Group of Industries

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SAUDI DEPUTY MINISTER CALLS ON BANGLADESH FM

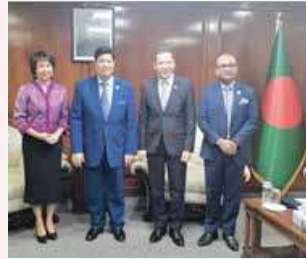


Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Dr. Nasser bin Abdulaziz Al Dawood called on Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at State Guest House, Padma. Hon'ble Foreign Minister welcomed

the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister and thanked him for his visit to Bangladesh. Saudi Deputy Minister expressed his gratitude to the Foreign Minister for receiving him despite his busy schedule. Hon'ble Foreign Minister thanked His Majesty the Saudi King, His Royal Highness Crown Prince, and the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia for their cordial support for strengthening relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia in multiple sectors.

The Saudi Deputy Minister highly appreciated the role of the government of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina for the steady economic development of Bangladesh. The Deputy Minister briefed Hon'ble Foreign Minister about the interest of Saudi Arabia in closer security cooperation between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia for common mutual interests. Hon'ble Foreign Minister mentioned that Bangladesh Government is working closely with Saudi Arabia for further strengthening cooperation in trade and investments, security, education and culture, power and energy, civil aviation and tourism. Hon'ble Foreign Minister told him that the Bangladesh government and people are waiting to welcome the crown prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh soon. Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed his satisfaction that tomorrow both sides would sign two important agreements on security cooperation and Route to Mecca service which would consolidate relations between the two countries. Under the route to Makkah Service Agreement, Pilgrims/ Hajis would be able to complete their immigration in Dhaka prior to their departure to Saudi Arabia. Bangladesh is the first country with whom Saudi Arabia is going to sign Route to Makkah service agreement considering the excellent relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. Hon'ble Foreign Minister thanked the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister for his visit to Dhaka.

THAILAND KEEN ON FTA TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TRADE



On 30 October 2022, H.E. Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, paid courtesy calls on H.E. Dr. AK Abdul Momen,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, and H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during his visit to Bangladesh on 28-31 October 2022. Wide range of issues were discussed such as the situation in international politics, the food and energy crisis, trade and investment promotion, tourism, as well as regional cooperation in the frameworks of ASEAN and BIMSTEC. He was accompanied by H.E. Mrs. Makawadee Sumitmor, Ambassador of

Thailand.



Afterwards, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh jointly

unveiled the commemorative stamp and launched the e-book that are issued and published on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh hosted a luncheon for the delegation at the State Guesthouse Padma, where senior government officials and heads of diplomatic missions were also invited.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand visited Bangladesh to offer Royal Kathina Robe in Chittagong before having bilateral sessions in Dhaka to celebrate the golden jubilee of formal ties between Thailand and Bangladesh.

MEETING BETWEEN STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE VISITING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND MINISTER IN-CHARGE OF TRADE RELATIONS OF SINGAPORE

Singapore is keen to explore the many possibilities that exist in its bilateral relations with Bangladesh and looks forward to harnessing the potential to raise it to the next level. This was shared by S Iswaran, Minister of Transportation and Minister in Charge of Trade Relations of



Singapore during his bilateral meeting with Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, in Dhaka. Iswaran is currently on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and Singapore. During the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged views on important areas of the bilateral relations which both of them lauded as being strong and time-tested.

Both Ministers discussed the measures their respective governments adopted for maintaining the momentum of their economies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Minister thanked the Singapore Government for their continuous support to the Bangladeshi

expatriates during the challenging times of the pandemic. He also observed that Singapore could consider intake of more skilled workers from Bangladesh especially in their health and other service sectors. Singaporean Minister appreciated hardworking Bangladeshi workers and their contribution to their construction and other sectors. Both Ministers discussed how demographic dividends could be reaped with the use of advanced technology and digitization.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION FOR SIGNING CEPA WITH BANGLADESH

His Excellency Pranay Verma, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh interacted with leading Business Leaders and Chambers of Bangladesh on 14 November 2022.



In his speech, High Commissioner highlighted the growing economic engagement between the two countries that has transformed our bilateral relationship significantly under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He noted that bilateral trade has more than doubled in the last five years and Bangladesh's exports to India have touched almost USD 2 billion in the last Financial Year with India becoming the largest export destination for Bangladesh in Asia.

High Commissioner Verma emphasized the importance of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which both sides agreed to negotiate, and its potential to enhance bilateral trade and investment ties by creating a new

institutional framework and supply chain linkages. He emphasized the importance of better connectivity and trade infrastructure at the borders to harness the full potential of economic partnership unleashed by the rapid economic development of both India and Bangladesh. In this context, he

underscored the need to decongest ICP Petrapole-Benapole by improving infrastructure at other land ports, and increasing the number of ports without restrictions which would in turn incentivize investments in Land Ports.

The High Commissioner also spoke about the need for greater cooperation, integration, and multi-modal connectivity of the sub-region including through roads, railways, inland waterways, and coastal shipping.

The interactive session was attended by top leaders of businesses and heads of business chambers of Bangladesh. A delegation from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), which is in Dhaka for a visit, also participated in the event.

THE EMBASSY OF SWEDEN SIGNED THE COMMON AGENDA FOR ADVANCING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



When women's economic empowerment increases, society as a whole benefits, both socially and economically!

The Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka is glad to have signed the "Common Agenda" initiated H&M Foundation to advance women's empowerment in the RMG sector. The agenda works to ensure that women among RMG workers have access to skills and opportunities for a future defined by automation and digitalization. The initiative is implemented by The Asia Foundation together with stakeholders such as iDE, Save the Children, Shimmy Technologies, WaterAid Bangladesh, CARE Bangladesh, and Circular Apparel Innovation Factory.

"The RMG sector in Bangladesh depends on and is driven by, the labor of millions of Bangladeshi women who have contributed greatly to the economic development of the country. With this support, Sweden hopes to help sustain and also develop new employment opportunities for women, and strengthen inclusive economic growth in Bangladesh", says the Swedish Ambassador Alex Berg von Linde.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO LAUNCH INDONESIAN BUSES IN DHAKA



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Ambassador Abdul Kadir Jailani launched two new Indonesian-made buses that will operate in Bangladesh. The bus launching ceremony was held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dhaka on the sidelines of a series of IORA activities on November

24, 2022. Apart from Deputy Minister Abdul Kadir Jailani, the event was also attended by the Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh and Nepal, Ambassador Heru Hartanto Subolo, and Managing Director of Innovative Motors, Md Faruk Talukder Sohel.

The new bus uses Scania's engine and the entire body was made in Indonesia by Laksana Bus Ltd. After the frame of the bus was manufactured completely, it was imported to Bangladesh by Innovative Motors. "This bus will be operated for inter-city transportation between Divisions," Ambassador Heru Subolo said.



In his remarks, Ambassador Jailani states that the existence of Indonesian - made buses in Bangladesh is expected to be part of Bangladesh's public transport modernization

program. Moreover, it is the manifestation of Indonesia -Bangladesh bilateral cooperation in the development of the public transportation sector. In addition, the presence of Indonesian buses on Bangladesh roads shows the close business relations between the Indonesia-Bangladesh business actors.

Eighteen buses made by Laksana Ltd. have entered the Bangladesh market since 2018 through Innovative Motors as the local partner.

The Bus Launching Ceremony is also part of the 50th anniversary of Indonesia-Bangladesh relations. This momentum is an opportunity for the two countries to strengthen partnerships in all fields, including economic and business cooperation. The bilateral trade performance between Indonesia and Bangladesh increases every year.

EDWARD M KENNEDY JR ON A WEEKLONG VISIT TO BANGLADESH



Edward M Kennedy Jr, son of late US Senator Edward M Kennedy and nephew of late US President John F Kennedy, is on a weeklong visit to Bangladesh from 29 October to 5 November.

Late US Senator Edward M Kennedy was a staunch supporter of Bangladesh's independence and campaigned for the 1971 Liberation War. He also visited Bangladesh in 1972 after the independence.

The visit of Edward M Kennedy Jr and his family is a "mark of milestone in the yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of US- Bangladesh relations," the US embassy in Dhaka said in a press release.

REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVED BY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION DHAKA



British High Commission Dhaka marked Remembrance Day at Maynamati Cemetery with a service attended by its staff, diplomatic missions in Bangladesh, and the Bangladeshi military to pay

tribute to all who have laid down their lives in service to their country.

On the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, a minute's silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.

In Australia and other allied countries, including New Zealand, Canada, and the United States, 11 November became known as Armistice Day – a day to remember those who died in World War One. The day continues to be commemorated in allied countries.



After World War Two, the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal that Armistice

Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

ROYAL BENGAL MASTER CHEF ORGANIZATION (BANGLADESH CHAPTER) WAS HELD 1ST TIME A MEGA EVENT FOR CULINARY LOVERS IN THE HISTORIC CITY OF DHAKA.



It was taken place on 4th November 2022 A INTERNATIONAL SONAR BANGLA Live Cooking Competition at DHAKA BOAT CLUB LIMITED (Dakha Boat Club Limited,Birulia-1340,Bangladesh) on the 4th November, 2022.



A Panel of Prominent World Class Master Chefs and experts in the Culinary field was present to Preside over the event.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E. HERU HARTANTO SUBOLO Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the People's Republic of Bangladesh was chief guest and Emad Al-Moussawi, Chargé d'affaires Embassy of Iraq was a special Guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

First Winner: Jannatun Nahar Mousumi, Second Winner: Meherun Akter Marry and Third Winner: Marufa Akter.

EMBASSY FOOTBALL FEST 2022



Embassy Football Fest was held on 25 & 26 November 2022. The USA team is the Champion of Embassy cup 2022.

Embassy Football Fest was held in Dhaka for the 3rd time. This friendly football tournament was inaugurated Friday, November 25, 2022, at 10 am with the participation of the United Nations, European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Bangladesh Government, Bangladesh Diplomatic Police along with 12 embassies located in Bangladesh. Honorable Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sabbir Ahmed Chowdhury was present as the chief guest in the opening ceremony. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Asad Alam Siam, Secretary General (Administration) Hazrat Ali Khan, US Ambassador Peter Haas, Deputy Chief of Mission Helen Lafave, and Australian Ambassador Jeremy Brewer were also present. Besides Cotton Group Director of Strategy and Operations Maisha Mahmud was also present as representative of sponsoring organizations.

The teams participating in the tournament are - Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Iraq, Palestine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, and France along with one team each from the United Nations and European Union, one from the host Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and one team from the Diplomatic Police.



By taking initiative to organize such an extraordinary event, the Bangladeshi Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes to improve contacts and communication among the embassies in the country.

Football Federation is providing full support to this extraordinary football event to be held in Dhaka.

NETHERLANDS, IOM JOIN HANDS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF ROHINGYAS, HOST COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR



The Netherlands will provide \$7.5 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for a project that aims to provide

multi-sectoral support assistance for the Rohingya refugees and the host communities in Cox's Bazar. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka and the IOM have signed an agreement for the implementation of the 'Restoring the Environment and Strengthening Resilience of Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Cox's Bazar' project.

An Exchange of Notes was signed by Chargé d'Affaires Thijs Woudstra, Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, and Fathima Nusrath Ghazzali, Officer in Charge of IOM Bangladesh at the IOM Office in Dhaka on Monday.

Cox's Bazar District, currently hosting nearly one million Rohingya refugees since 2017, is prone to natural disasters and climate change impacts. Refugees and host communities are vulnerable to landslides and floods, particularly during cyclones which can occur annually.

The project will also benefit at least 30,000 refugee families (approximately 150,000 people) living in the Balukhali landslide and flood-prone areas (inside the camps) and 3,000 families from the Bangladeshi host

communities (approximately 16,410 people) living in the area outside the refugee camps.

"The Rohingya live in congested camps with limited opportunities and complex challenges. Host communities also face issues that increase their vulnerability, including strained resources, limited market access, limited employment opportunities, insufficient infrastructure, and recurring environmental shocks," said Ghazzali,

"With support from the Netherlands, IOM will provide life-saving support to Rohingya refugees and host communities, contributing to improved social harmony and human security. This will include providing essential services focusing on camp life; mental health; disaster risk reduction, and water, sanitation & hygiene," she added.

Chargé d'Affaires Thijs Woudstra expressed hope that the support from the Government of the Netherlands will help to improve the living conditions of both Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi communities and mitigate disaster risks.

The project will be implemented in coordination with the government of Bangladesh and other relevant stakeholders.

Diplomats Journey

Diplomats started its journey in 2018 as the first and only publication of diplomatic news in Bangladesh with the aim of highlighting the progress of democratization and economic developments in Bangladesh. The Founding Editor of **Diplomats** Magazine was Emeritus Professor and Hon'ble Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen. He also served for seven years as the Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Nazinur Rahim, Founding Director of Ireland Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (IBCCI), is the co-founder of **Diplomats**. Since its inception, Nazinur Rahim has been the Publisher and Executive Editor. He is also involved in IT, Software development & digital transformation business in home and abroad. Currently Shahed Akhtar, Fmr. Ambassador & Secretary, GoB is the Editor of **Diplomats** and Abul Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Fmr. State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoB is the Executive Advisor of **Diplomats**.

The **Diplomats** is available in print as well as online subscriptions. Currently, it has between 25,000 and 30,000 regular subscribers via online through Email, WhatsApp and Facebook, and more than 3,500 regular subscribers of the printed version. **Diplomats** is the only publication of its kind in Bangladesh. The main objective of this publication is to promote Bangladesh among foreign diplomats, expatriates and foreign nationals at home and abroad. At the same time, **Diplomats** is working tirelessly to present Bangladesh as the brand name to the outside world.

Among other notable activities of **Diplomats**, are as follows:-

Diplomats presented **Set-Top Box** to all the Missions abroad with the aim of enabling the viewers to watch Bangla TV channels abroad. The initiative was taken to promote Bangladesh's art, culture and various development activities. The set-top boxes is expected to enable showcasing Bangladesh in every of the world.

The first **Genocide Corner** was setup at the Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy with the help of **Diplomats** Publication in order to present the glorious history of Bangladesh's War of liberation and at the same time, the horrific atrocities carried out by the occupation forces during the war in 1971.

So far, as many as nine seminars have been organized by **Diplomats** in many different countries, including Italy, France and United Kingdom. In these seminars Bangladesh's progress and achievements have been highlighted. Honorable Minister, Foreign Diplomats and senior officials from various international organizations participated in these seminars.

At present, **Diplomats** Publication is being sent to all the foreign missions of Bangladesh around the world. At the same time, all the Foreign Embassies, International organizations, Banks, media, Member of Parliament and key decision maker in Bangladesh is receiving copies of **Diplomats** publication on regular basis.

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*আর তোমরা স্ত্রীগণকে তাদের
দেনমোহর সন্তুষ্টিতে দিয়ে দাও*

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