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WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

**Who is Responsible for Increasing Violence,
Mistrust, and Hatred in CHT?**

Bangladesh Political Landscape and Its Regional Implications

Constitutional Reform and Exploring the Framework of Democracy

Building a Just Future: Prof Yunus Presents a
New Bangladesh at the UNGA





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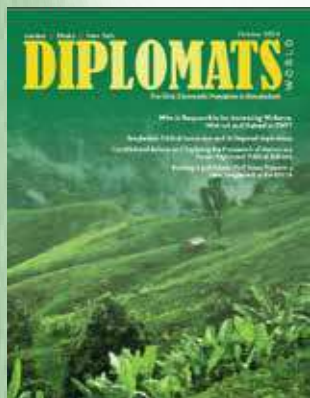
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Cover Image: Chittagong Hill Tracts

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Diplomats World extends its warmest greetings to all esteemed readers.

The month of October has been particularly eventful, with several significant developments that merit the attention of our readership.

This month Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, made a landmark visit to Bangladesh—the first visit by a head of government since the interim government assumed office. This visit underscored the deep friendship between Prime Minister Anwar and Chief Adviser Prof. Mohammad Yunus. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations, with a special focus on labor migration, education, and economic cooperation. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim assured that Bangladeshi workers previously unable to enter Malaysia would now be granted entry, paving the way for safer and more beneficial labor migration. Additionally, Malaysian institutions will encourage Bangladeshi students to pursue higher education, while both nations explore opportunities for technological and economic integration. Malaysia's upcoming chairmanship of ASEAN also brings Bangladesh's potential inclusion as a sectoral dialogue partner into focus, adding another dimension to regional diplomacy. Prime Minister Anwar further expressed Malaysia's intention to intensify efforts toward resolving the Rohingya crisis, which continues to threaten regional stability.

Another pivotal moment was Prof. Yunus's address at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, recently which marked a significant milestone in Bangladesh's international diplomacy. In his speech, Prof. Yunus highlighted the transformative power of the recent student-led movement in Bangladesh and reiterated the interim government's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, equality, and prosperity. His interactions with global leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, reflected the growing international support for Bangladesh's ongoing reforms. Prof. Yunus also emphasized the urgent challenges posed by the Rohingya refugee crisis and the escalating impacts of climate change on Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Finance and Commerce, Science and Technology Adviser, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, held productive discussions with the President of the World Bank and the DG of IMF in Washington. These meetings were marked by a strong commitment from both institutions to support Bangladesh's economic recovery and further its development trajectory in the years ahead.

Diplomats World joins in wishing joyous Durga Puja to the members of the Hindu Community, the festival symbolises the triumph of good over evil and the pursuit of truth and justice.

This edition of Diplomat's World offers a comprehensive analysis of these and other key issues, with features ranging from the ongoing situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts evolving landscape and Bangladesh's strengthening ties with Saudi Arabia and Algeria. We also explore Bangladesh's increasing regional significance and its growing role in international affairs, providing our readers with insights into the complexities and opportunities that lie ahead.

Shahed Akhtar
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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASING VIOLENCE, MISTRUST, AND HATRED IN CHT?

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Some questions have surfaced again in light of the recent unrest in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region. Reports of attacks in Rangamati and Dighinala, Khagrachhari, have led to the recurrence of communal violence in the CHT in south-eastern Bangladesh. 27 years after the peace treaty (1997) was signed, the mountain is heated again. The situation in the CHT is becoming fragile. There is increasing ethnic violence, mistrust, and hatred. What is the cause of frequent unrest and

tension in the mountains? Who is responsible for these misdeeds? Knowing the answers to these questions is very important to tackle serious problems like racial resentment.

In particular, 27 years after the signing of the peace agreement, the resurgence of conflict and tension in the mountains is a matter of concern. A peace treaty was signed with an armed group. There are now 5/6 armed groups voicing various demands. What is more serious

is that trivial or ordinary incidents, which can be settled through arbitration or litigation, are also taking the form of horrific group or communal riots.

Anger-filled individuals from both sides (mainstream Bengalis and ethnic minorities) separated and began training at the headquarters shortly after the incident, according to the local police and other sources, I spoke with while I was there recently, following a spate of heated and



Ethnic communities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts gather to voice their grievances amidst growing unrest and ethnic tensions

inter-communal conflicts.

Aggressive slogans were chanted by both sides. In order to pacify the agitated crowd on both sides, many times government officials were also attacked. Section 144 was finally issued in all cases. After the incident, the situation was very tense for a few days. Common people on both sides and their houses and businesses are affected.

On October 1, the administration issued Section 144 after a teacher was beaten to death on charges of rape in the hill district of Khagrachari when tension broke out between the ethnic minorities and the Bengalis. Army and police patrols have been strengthened to control the situation. After this incident, both groups took a position facing each other at Khagrachari Sadar. Both sides took out separate processions. A few shops in Sadar's Mahajanpara were also vandalized. Apart from this, a house was set on fire.

Earlier on September 18, after a youth was beaten to death on the charge of stealing a motorcycle,

there was a clash between the both communities. Then the deceased Mamun's wife filed a murder case against the absconding three Awami League leaders. Later ethnic minority-Bengali conflict spread around Mamun's death. On September 19, shops were set on fire at Larma Square in Dighinala. A person named Dhananjay Chakma died in the clash at Dighinala. On the night of September 19, two people, Rubel Tripura, and Junan Chakma, were killed in the firing by law and order forces in Khagrachari Sadar. Due to this incident on September 20, there

was a clash in Rangamati. There, shops and houses were set on fire. A person named Anik Kumar Chakma died. Section 144 was imposed in Rangamati and Khagrachari on September 20. It was later withdrawn. Five cases were filed in two districts in these incidents.

It needs to be noted here that ethnic discontent and communal riots are not a matter of solution only through force. If there are seeds of violence, mistrust, and hatred in the society, then it will grow. While it is possible for law and order forces to establish peace temporarily, it is not possible to uproot the seeds of trouble. As a result, there are seeds of problems, and so many unpleasant things are happening in the mountains region of the CHT.

The question is, who is responsible for these incidents and what are the reasons? It is necessary to know in order to solve the problem. We know that the CHT were on an armed path after the independence of Bangladesh. Through the peace agreement in 1997, it progressed in a systematic way. It is definitely a political success. But



Protest in Dhaka over attacks on Jumma people in Khagrachhari



Shops set ablazed at Larma Square market in Khagrachhari's Dighinala on 19 September

peace and harmony are not established overnight when agreements are executed. For this, it is necessary to take appropriate initiatives, through which violence and mistrust among people will be reduced and stability will come.

The task of establishing communal harmony in the hills is neglected. As a result of the agreement, various ethnic minority groups and Bengali leaders are intoxicated with various titles. No one came forward to establish social peace and harmony. All are fighting against each other from group and party political positions. As a result, the larger society is also divided in the line of ideologies and political views. In the name of party, in the name of clan, in the name of ethnicity, they do not retreat from facing each other because this division between them has not been removed.

The surprising thing is that despite the violence and communal riots in the CHT, the political leaders could not hold hands for a single alliance rally. There was no all-party harmony

march or gathering. Groups of people with different outlook groups live there with suspicion and mistrust of each other.

However, after the peace treaty, along with various political changes, social and cultural harmonies were also necessary. There was a need to organize dialogue between groups and parties. There was also a need for mutual understanding, exchange, and people to people contacts. Then the distance between the groups could decrease by reducing the violence and hatred.



Many shops were left to burn during the violence at Larma Square in Dighinala's Khagrachhari on Thursday. Four days after the incident, traders remove furniture and goods from the scene on Monday, Sept 23, 2024

It was the responsibility of political leaders, civil society, and social groups to create an environment of social, cultural, and communal harmony and peaceful coexistence. It is depressingly noticeable that they are all so engrossed in the petty political interests of their respective groups and factions that no thought or effort for the overall welfare and peace of the society is seen from them at all. Walls of divisiveness have grown and often incidents of beatings or communal riots have taken place. As a result of which there is a huge loss of life and property of common people. And tension and violence are spreading in the hills. Innocent people's lives and livelihoods are being affected as a whole.

Promulgation of Section 144 after riots or taking the stand of law and order forces temporarily calms the situation, but it is not a permanent solution. It is not the case that after a few days, there will be unrest and the government forces will go and establish peace; rather, the whole matter is an issue of decision by the political



Traders from the hill tribe community have set up small stalls to sell meat and vegetables amid the wreckage of the Larma Square market in Khagrachhari's Dighinala on Monday, Sept 23, 2024

leadership and depends on the attitude of the peaceful position of all socially. If the people of the society do not protect their lives and property by maintaining peace for their own sake, then it is not possible for any force to establish lasting peace.

Permanent and sustainable peace has to be established by those who live there permanently.

Even after so many years of peace agreement, the creation of communal riots and

communal tensions in the CHT cannot be accepted in any way. After a few days, the warlike behavior of the two sides is also not desirable. In particular, the deaths of civilians, and damage to citizens' homes and shops are completely unacceptable. No sane person can accept the picture of medieval riots in a free country. Political and social leadership must come forward to break the walls of violence and mistrust and create an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence with all. Otherwise, if the social and political leadership spreads the poison of violence and hatred for the interests of small groups and parties, then the green mountain of peace will be burnt to ashes by mutual conflicts and violence, which will not be good and beneficial for anyone.

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Professor and Chairman

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STRENGTHENING DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC TIES: ALGERIA'S EMERGING ROLE AS A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT HUB FOR GLOBAL PARTNERS

H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani

Algeria and Bangladesh have shared a robust diplomatic relationship since 1971, with Algeria being the first nation to recognize Bangladesh's independence. This recognition developed a bond between the late Algerian President Haouari Boumediene and the people of Bangladesh. The two countries have strengthened their ties over the years, building on their shared values of mutual respect and cooperation.

Algeria shares with Bangladesh the common struggle for freedom and independence and defending

the values of justice, equality, peace and security, and supporting just causes across the globe.



Honorable President of Bangladesh, H.E. Mohammed Shahabuddin, receives the credentials from the newly appointed Ambassador of Algeria, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani

Expanding Diplomatic and Economic Ties

The historical bond between Algeria and Bangladesh provides a foundation upon which future cooperation, especially in trade and investment, can be built. At present 17 Memorandum of Understandings and agreements are in process on various sectors between Algeria and Bangladesh which include Agriculture, Energy, Pharmaceuticals, Cultural exchange, Trade, Aviation, Education, Sports, etc....

The Algerian Government has undertaken significant



Algeria stands in no 1 position in GNL Exportation in Africa

economic reforms aimed at diversification and sustainability. No longer exclusively reliant on hydrocarbons, Algeria is promoting sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and information technology as attractive areas for foreign investment.

For Bangladeshi investors, Algeria presents abundant opportunities. Algeria's strategic location, acting as a bridge between Europe and Africa, offers businesses a logistical advantage, providing access to both European and African markets. The development of Algerian ports on the Mediterranean coast enhances regional connectivity, facilitating smoother cross-border trade.

Investment Opportunities in Algeria

Enhancing Investor Confidence: A Key Driver of Economic Growth
Algeria is emerging as a significant player on the global economic stage, providing fertile opportunities for investors in a rapidly growing environment.

Stable and sustainable economic growth is a key factor that encourages investor trust, making Algeria a promising destination for those seeking long-term opportunities. Here's a look at how Algeria's growth is shaping its investment potential.

Economic Stability and Growth
Algeria's consistent and stable economic growth offers an ideal environment for businessmen looking for long-term investments. Recent reforms aimed at economic diversification have enhanced stability, reducing risks and creating a predictable business

climate that encourages foreign and domestic investors alike.

Diverse Investment Sectors
Algeria's efforts to diversify its economy beyond its traditional reliance on hydrocarbons have opened up several promising sectors for investment. Opportunities abound in renewable energy, agriculture, information technology, and infrastructure development. This diversification helps investors mitigate risks by offering multiple sectors to invest in, reducing exposure to instabilities in any one area.

Structural Reforms and Business Environment

The Algerian Government has made significant progress in improving the overall business environment through structural reforms. These initiatives, which include simplifying administrative processes, protecting investors' rights, and increasing transparency, strengthen investor confidence by providing a solid and reliable legal and regulatory framework.

Youthful Workforce and Demographic Advantage
With a young and rapidly growing population, Algeria



The National Electricity and Gas Company (Sonelgaz)



Algerian desert, a true agricultural Hub

offers a large pool of skilled labor. This demographic advantage allows investors to harness innovation and productivity, boosting the competitive edge of businesses operating in the country.

Global Partnerships and Trade Agreements

Algeria's commitment to global integration is evident through its participation in various trade agreements and international partnerships. By diversifying its economic alliances, Algeria opens doors for investors looking to expand their market reach, fostering an environment that is

conducive to long-term growth and collaboration.

Strategic Advantages of Investing in Algeria

Proximity to Major Markets

Algeria's strategic location between Europe and Africa gives businesses a geographical advantage.

Companies based in Algeria can effectively serve both European and African markets, facilitating cross-border trade and minimizing logistical costs. This position opens access to an expansive commercial network,

making Algeria a hub for regional and international commerce.

Regional Connectivity and Logistics Hub Potential

With its proximity to the Mediterranean, Algeria's ports provide crucial maritime access, connecting businesses to international trade routes. This advantage positions Algeria as a potential logistics hub for North Africa, offering businesses the opportunity to streamline their supply chains and optimize distribution networks.

Geopolitical Stability

Unlike some neighboring regions, Algeria enjoys a relatively stable geopolitical environment. This stability significantly reduces political risks, providing investors with a secure and predictable environment for their operations, which is critical for long-term business success.

Natural Resource Wealth

Algeria's vast reserves of hydrocarbons, along with its growing renewable energy sector, position the country as a strategic energy supplier. This makes Algeria attractive to investors in both fossil fuel and renewable energy sectors, enhancing the country's economic resilience and offering the best opportunities in energy production.

Climate Diversity

Algeria's varied climatic conditions support investment in sectors like agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy. This diversity allows investors to explore multiple sectors, minimizing the risk associated



Djamaa el Djazaïr known as the Great Mosque of Algiers, opened in April 2019, and is the third-largest mosque in the world



Tourism in Algeria

with dependency on one industry.

Access to African and European Markets

As a member of the African Union, Algeria is well-positioned to take advantage of regional opportunities. Investors benefit from privileged access to African markets, while Algeria's geographical proximity to Europe facilitates trade with one of the world's largest consumer bases. Favorable trade agreements further strengthen Algeria's potential as a strategic investment destination.

Infrastructure and Human Resources

Well-Developed Infrastructure

Algeria's extensive infrastructure—including modern transportation networks, reliable energy supplies, and advanced telecommunications systems—significantly enhances its appeal as an investment

destination. These systems ensure efficient market access, uninterrupted production, and technological innovation, all of which are crucial for business success.

Skilled and Dynamic Workforce

Algeria has invested heavily in education and workforce training, creating a skilled and adaptable labor force. With a youthful population under 30 years old, Algeria's workforce is not only technically proficient but also highly receptive to new technologies and innovative work methods. This ensures that investors have access to a dynamic pool of talent capable of driving productivity and growth.

Competitive Production Costs

Algeria offers competitive advantages in terms of production costs, particularly in labor, energy, and infrastructure. Competitive wages, coupled with an

abundance of affordable energy resources, significantly lower production costs. Furthermore, access to raw materials and well-developed infrastructure ensures that operational costs remain manageable for businesses.

Government Support and Incentives

Algerian Government actively supports investment by offering fiscal incentives such as tax exemptions, customs facilities, and regulatory incentives. These measures are designed to make it easier for foreign companies to establish operations in the country, providing cost-effective solutions for businesses looking to expand.

With its strategic location, stable economic growth, and government-backed initiatives aimed at improving the business climate, Algeria presents a highly attractive environment for investors. The country's diversified economic sectors, youthful workforce, and well-developed infrastructure make it a compelling destination for businesses looking to tap into North African and international markets.

Whether through renewable energy, agriculture, or logistics, Algeria is poised to become a key player in the global economy, offering unique opportunities for investors worldwide.

H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani
Ambassador
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



SAUDI EMBASSY IN DHAKA CELEBRATES KINGDOM'S 94TH NATIONAL DAY, STRENGTHENING BANGLADESH-SAUDI RELATIONS

In honor of Saudi Arabia's 94th National Day, Ambassador H.E. Essa Yusef Essa Alduhailan hosted a grand celebration at the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka. The event, attended by diplomats, UN representatives, and notable guests, reflected the strong ties between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh.

In his speech, Ambassador Alduhailan extended greetings to King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, praising Saudi Arabia's progress under Vision 2030 and reaffirming its commitment to partnerships with allies, including Bangladesh. He also highlighted cooperation across economic, energy, trade, and labor sectors, recognizing Bangladeshi workers' contributions to the Kingdom's growth.

With traditional cuisine and a warm atmosphere, the celebration showcased Saudi culture and reinforced the commitment to a shared future between the two nations.





BANGLADESH POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND ITS REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Lt Gen (Retd) Dr. Professor Aminul Karim

Bangladesh got deeply stepped in the culture of lack of governance, lack of rule of law, lack of accountability and transparency, lack of law and order, lack of justice, lack of freedom from fear and basic needs etc., starting mostly from 2014. The citizens got disenfranchised during the last three general elections, starting 2014, that theoretically elected the national parliament so it was all sham elections. Those elections did not carry legitimacy or credibility to the electorate at large. So practically the parliament was almost ineffective to make the executive government accountable. In fact, it was the executive branch that controlled all other organs of the state. To be more precise, it was the prime minister, who controlled all these

organs in a roundabout way. So some scholars called it prime-minister type government in place of Westminster. There was hardly any check and balance or separation of powers between the different organs of the state.

This got exacerbated due to the incorporation of Article 70 in the constitution that prohibits the elected members of the parliament to cross the floor in the parliament in case of disagreement. In fact, these members had no freedom to choose the right option that could benefit the nation and people but to capitulate to the whims and whips of the ruling party.

This resulted in the rise of oligarchs and cronies, who

practically controlled the reins of power. This thus resulted in rampant and widespread corruption and accumulation of huge wealth, keeping 60 percent of the population at or below the poverty line. Widespread corruption resulted in the failure of the financial and banking systems of the country. This then again resulted in siphoning off billions of dollars outside the country thus depriving local investments. It also resulted in expanding the gap between rich and poor. Such a gap gives rise to social unrest that was so obvious right before monsoon the revolution of July --August 2024.

Economic and social disparity was also accompanied by lack of freedom of expression, assembly, speech, conscience etc.



Protests erupt during the last three national elections, marking the rise of disenfranchisement and loss of public trust in the political system

Fundamental human rights as stipulated in the constitution were hardly honored thus muffling the basic freedoms, as also stipulated in the UN declaration of human rights, of all the citizenry. This was also accompanied by hundreds of cases of enforced disappearances, deaths, tortures in the unknown torture cells called Ayna Ghar. These were conducted under direct instruction from the top tier of the government. The intelligence agencies were mostly used for the purpose.

The government was thus authoritarian or autocratic, per se.

They could be called elected autocrats. The democracy practiced in Bangladesh during the last fifteen years was a totally flawed democracy. There was no wave of democracy seen in the democratic life of Bangladesh.

So there was an almost outburst of peoples' suffocated and pent up grievances for decades together in July 2024. So the revolution was an obvious fait accompli. There was no other choice. The last spark to the revolution was spearheaded by the vibrant and conscious university, college or even school going students, accompanied by

their parents. They came out in the streets in droves to face the bullets and sound grenades of the police and para-military forces. The government agencies response was too brutal to result in hundreds of deaths—so far counted it is about 750 in a matter of days— and thousands of injuries, in the legs, in the eyes, in the chest, in the head and so on. Interestingly these did not deter these youngsters, who are euphemistically called Generation Z. They were bold and determined to face the bullets, helicopter gunships, drones, sniper attacks, sound grenades etc.

This generation Z was highly organized and deeply motivated. Their leadership structure was well organized that could take the stress of a kind of battlefield that was coming waves after waves.

The grand finale was enacted on the 5th August 2024, when the fascist prime minister fled the country by a C-130 aircraft, when she realized the mob in hundreds and thousands were about to ransack her palace in the heart of the capital city. The mob ultimately reached the palace, much like the recent Sri Lankan case, but the target had left by that time. She did her desperate best to use the most brutal force to cow down the students and people, who were most agitated.

So a new interim government has come into being to fill the vacuum thus created by the parting of the last pm along with many of his cabinet and parliament members from the country. The new government has taken charge of the country on 8 August 2024 at the behest of the Armed Forces as there were no other organized



A parliament controlled by executive powers left citizens voiceless and enabled oligarchic corruption



Young students lead the charge against autocracy, facing down brutal repression and violence

forces available to bring the law and order situation under control and facilitate installing the new interim government. People call it the second freedom, while Bangladesh earned its first freedom after a bloody war for nine months in 1971.

The new government has to struggle hard to put things in order as most of the institutions got decayed, much of the dollars got evaporated, majority of the police force got decimated by angry mob, inflation of the essential products sky rocketed, national currency got highly devalued, syndicates controlling the almost entire market mechanism of the country.

There are disturbances cropping up here and there like vested quarters going for work stoppage, worsening the law and order situation etc. This is normal after such tumultuous revolution that rattled the entire length and breadth of the country.

The Interim government has to almost start from ground zero. It has to prioritize its work plan like law and order, revive the police force, resuscitate the falling

economy, re-start the educational institutions, fill up the gaps created due to deaths, absence, incarceration with competent human resources etc. It has to go for reform police, Ansar, RAB forces, judiciary, election, anti-corruption commissions etc. It has to facilitate trials of hundreds of people accused of unbridled corruption, high handedness, misuse of power, killing and maiming, blinding of hundreds of innocent citizens over a period of more than fifteen years.

The interim government is contemplating revising the existing constitution but that may

be an uphill task for this government. It has started dialogue with the political parties, which is a healthy start.

The interim government has to face challenges emanating from its closet neighbor i.e. India. India has provided shelter to the escaping pm of bd. India seemingly did not appreciate the democratic values in Bangladesh as democracy was taking its roots firmly since 2008 in South Asia. India lost its golden opportunity to create a democratic union as even countries like Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal made sincere efforts to firmly establish democracy as a way of life in their respective countries. India is well known the world over as the largest democracy of the world. But it had brazenly supported a so-called elected authoritarian regime of the ousted pm of Bangladesh. India had directly tried to manipulate general election results in favor of the fascist fallen government time and again since 2014. Indian intelligence had ostensibly miserably failed to read the pulse of the aspiring Bangladeshi people, especially its young Generation Z population. India



Indian-Bangladesh relations strained by border killings and lack of water-sharing agreements, affecting bilateral ties



The interim government faces the daunting task of rebuilding Bangladesh's decayed institutions, from the economy to governance

had put more emphasis on regime survival than people to people contacts. So it's much trumpeted neighborhood first policy or connectivity program under now under question, as it stands today.

India-China race for control of South Asia also impacts the way of life, economy, military forces, water and other resources, industrialization, provisioning of raw materials, connectivity etc. of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has to continually balance these two geopolitically important players in its neighborhood. Balancing is a risky game to play with for a smaller power. Both the countries are critical for economic sustenance of Bangladesh because they provide critical raw materials for its manufacturing.

Water is a critical resource for Bangladesh to sustain itself in the long run. But almost all of its rivers originate in India so Bangladesh's fate hinges on the good will of India. There are 54 common rivers between India and Bangladesh. Except for the Ganges, no formal agreement has been inked for the rational distribution river waters. During lean season, when there is huge need of water, India withdraws water from the rivers and during monsoon, there is enough water, India opens the gates of dams, created along 53 out 54 common rivers, to offloads its excess water.

Bangladesh -India international border is called by some sources as the bloodiest. The BSF of India keeps on killing the innocent

Bangladeshi people, as a routine. Despite assurances given at the government level not to use lethal weapons, there is no let up to this spree.

Such activities badly impact the good neighborly relations of these two countries. These are affecting people to people contacts between these two countries. Bangladesh is definitely indebted to India for the extraordinary support it provided to Bangladesh during its war of liberation in 1971. Such support contributed immensely to the liberation of Bangladesh from the clutches of occupying Pakistani forces.

To conclude, Bangladesh has to go strong with its green economic development, human resources development and index, competitiveness in all sectors, blue economy in the Bay of Bengal, diversification of its export, reduce the gap between the rich and poor, mechanization of its agriculture, reduce the poverty level of the common people, improve its governance and accountability, separate its judiciary completely, create a vibrant parliament free from executive interference, modernize its security apparatus, make efforts for technology development, encourage free thinking and expression, extend friendship to all UN members and continue to provide support to UN peace missions etc.

Lt Gen (Retd) Dr. Professor Aminul Karim

Security Analyst

Former Visiting Professor, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
& Former Visiting Professor, China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing

DENMARK'S 'COPENHAGEN IN COMMON' EVENT SHOWCASES SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT INITIATIVES IN BANGLADESH

The Danish Embassy in Dhaka recently hosted the "Copenhagen in Common" Green Exhibition and Knowledge Networking Session, titled "Building Bangladesh 2.0 through Sustainable Investment." Held on October 22, 2024, at Edge Gallery Bay's Edgewater, the event brought together industry leaders, sustainability experts, and Danish organizations to promote ethical trade and sustainable practices in Bangladesh.

The event highlighted Denmark's Sustainability and Supply Chain Advisory (SSCA), an initiative that supports Danish businesses in creating eco-friendly, traceable supply chains. Danish partners such as Dansk Mode & Textil and the Danish Working Environment Authority showcased their collaboration efforts, demonstrating the value of responsible business practices and long-term sustainability in Bangladesh.





ADVANCING UNITY AND PROGRESS: STRENGTHENING THE HISTORIC TIES AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND BANGLADESH

H.E. Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhailan

All praise is due to Allah,
peace and blessings of Allah
be upon our Prophet
Muhammad, his virtuous family
members, and bright fortunate
companions.

I would like to express my warm
greetings to you on this beloved
day (September 23), which
comes to us every year as a
commemoration of the national
day of the Kingdom of Saudi
Arabia to recall the first
important historical event, a day
engraved in the memory of
history and sculpture in the
mind and soul of Saudi citizens.
On this day, King Abdul Aziz
BinAbdur Rahman Al-Saud –
May Allah make his grave
peaceful, unify this great
territory after it was scattered,
and change the division and
enmity to unity, fusion, and
integration. Our country is
celebrating this perfumed day
(the anniversary of 94th National



Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, The Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Day). This is an everlasting event and glorious occasion, in which the generations can understand the values, comprehension, sacrifices, and tremendous efforts which accompanied the building of this gigantic territory. We are celebrating this day to express our love and regards hidden in our hearts for this blessed land and for those personalities to whom the credit goes to Almighty Allah, for the bounty of welfare and stability which our country is enjoying.

In recent years, the Kingdom witnessed unprecedented development leaps in all sectors. The achievements of this country in the economic, educational, and security fields are beyond imagination to describe, so it has become an example of stability, prosperity, and development in its regional atmosphere. The Kingdom's vision 2030 is unique and comprehensive for all aspects of life, and enters into very precise details about the future of the country from economic, educational, social, cultural, and civilizational aspects. This vision wisely and

intelligently illustrates the necessity of citizen's contribution and their interaction with this vision of this blessed country under the righteous leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and HRH Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz – May Allah protect them. It is tough to describe vision 2030 in few

words, because this vision includes many thoughts, projects, initiatives, shining and deep sights for future as well as great ambition towards inclusive and sustainable development, as it has been planned by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz – May Allah protect him and his good government.

On this precious occasion, it is worthy of mention to all of us the great services of the Kingdom for Arabic and Islamic nations. This land is the place of descent of revelation, the beginning of the message of Allah and the Qiblah of Muslims. From the very beginning of establishment of this state, it has given great importance and attention to Islam and Muslims. So, it has established many Mosques in all corners of the world, beginning from the extension works of Two Holy Mosques. During the reign of the Saudi dynasty, these Two Holy Mosques have witnessed the



His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Protector of the Two Holy Cities, King of Saudi Arabia



The first-ever W Hotel in Saudi Arabia, set to open at the Trojena Snow Resort in NEOM, offering a luxurious and futuristic experience in the heart of the Kingdom's visionary mountain destination

biggest extension works compared with all previous eras. So, performing Hajj& Umrah as well as visiting the Prophet's Mosque becomes very easy and comfortable for every pilgrim. Their good intentions, eagerness and providing all means of comfort, have made the rituals of Hajj for pilgrims and visitors of the Prophet's Mosque (peace be upon Him) very convenient. They have used all potentialities of this country for their service wholeheartedly, which has been witnessed by farmers and nearer. Then it started to print the Book of Allah (The Holy Quran) for distribution of millions of copies and with the translation of its meanings into various languages, for being accessible to every Muslim whatever be his language and place.

The Saudi-Bangladesh relationship is deep rooted and excellent based on a strong foundation of religious, cultural, economic and humanitarian ties. Saudi Arabia always stands beside Bangladesh helping it,

especially in times of hardship. The Bangladeshi nation, the lover of Islamic religion, also gives great importance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in recognition of its help extended to them to improve the living standards and achieve the social and economic development of the country. On the other hand, huge numbers of Bangladeshi (around 3.2 million) are working in different sectors in the Kingdom, which is recognized as the greatest labor market in the world. More than (3.5)

billion USD remittance is sent by Bangladeshi workers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia every year. The Kingdom has a great contribution to the betterment of the living standards of all people of this country. There are many districts of Bangladesh located on coastal areas, which are facing natural disasters, floods and cyclones. The Kingdom is recognized as a leading country that always extends its hand for cooperation and helps Bangladesh whenever it is afflicted by disasters.

The Kingdom has given its assistance in financing different projects, like building houses, schools, Mosques, orphanages, and shelter homes for the protection from natural disasters, as well as establishing hospitals, bridges, and electric power plants. The Saudi-Bangladesh relations are always stable and progressive in all the time. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is always keen to strengthen bilateral relations with the People's Republic of Bangladesh in various fields including trade and investment, along with other fields. HRH



The Kingdom Tower and its neighboring skyscrapers illuminate the Riyadh skyline, creating a breathtaking nocturnal spectacle



His Excellency Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhailan, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Bangladesh, with His Excellency Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, at the State Guest House Jamuna

Crown Prince Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman congratulated the head of the interim government of Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Yunus and looks forward to the betterment of this government. As a brotherly country for

Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia will always be beside Bangladesh in various aspects in order to make its dream come true towards the development of Bangladesh.

What is said above about the everlasting memorable

advancement are merely some luminous glimpses and profiles from the journey of this lofty land. While I avail this precious occasion to congratulate our country along with its leaders and peoples, pray to almighty Allah to save the benevolent homeland Who enabled us to belong to it, and may bestow it more bounties and arrange righteous leadership which is leading and will lead to the goodliness and security in the turbulent regional environment.

On this occasion, on behalf of me and all officials of the Embassy, I have the great pleasure and honor to extend the warmest congratulations and regards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz and HRH Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz and all members of generous Royal family and noble Saudi people.

H.E. Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhailan

Ambassador

Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in People's Republic of Bangladesh



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CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND EXPLORING THE FRAMEWORK OF DEMOCRACY

Imran Khan

The constitution of Bangladesh was written in 1972 with the dream that it will be the guiding parameter of governance and politics. However, for more than the last five decades, both the governance and politics of the nation have veered away from the ideals of the constitution. The system of governance is far from the promise of democracy and accountability. Authoritarian rulers, in the first two decades, trampled the constitution and amended it several times to suit their interests. The post-1991 era of elected civilian regimes has not been different. Constitutional changes have made the legislature subservient to the executive, paved the way for a

concentration of power at the hands of the Prime Minister, and undermined the process of participation of the citizens.

The 2024 August revolution created a new opportunity for our nation to amend and rebuild our constitutional system. The current interim government already formed a full commission to make recommendations on constitutional reforms. In this journey, we will dissect the constitution through three core areas of the democracy i.e. election system, judiciary, and accountability of the Chief Executive of the state, and will keep the spotlight where to focus on reform.

Election:

Part VII of the constitution is for elections. By combining 9 articles of this section and the articles of other relevant sections, we will first try to see whether an impartial and fair election is possible under the current constitution.

Article [118 (1)]: “...the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (if any) shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf, be made by the President.”

The objective of the law referred to above was to ensure that qualified and



The Constitution of Bangladesh, drafted in 1972, is once again under scrutiny as the nation seeks reforms to establish a more democratic and accountable governance system

neutral persons acceptable to all can be selected as election commissioners. Till today no such law has been enacted.

[48(3)]: “...In the exercise of all his functions, save only that of appointing the Prime Minister pursuant to clause (3) of article 56 and the Chief Justice pursuant to clause (1) of article 95, the President shall act in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister...”

According to the Constitution, the President has no way to do this without taking the advice of the Prime Minister (PM). Not only this, there is a cautionary remark in second part of Article 48(3) to the citizen as follows:

“...Provided that the question whether any, and if so what, advice has been tendered by the Prime Minister to the President shall not be enquired into in any court...”

So, as citizens, we have no opportunity to know what the PM is advising to the President in this regard.

For fair elections, if President wants to take necessary measures by ignoring the advice of PM? The scenario would be like:

[53(1)]: “The President may be removed from office on the ground of physical or mental incapacity...”

What it takes to materialize? Let's observe remaining part of Article 53(1):
“...a motion of which notice, signed by a majority of the total

number of members of Parliament...”

[53(2)]: “On receipt of the notice the Speaker shall forthwith summon Parliament if it is not in session and shall call for a resolution constituting a medical board.....notice to be transmitted to the President together with a request signed by the Speaker that the President submit himself within a period of ten days from the date of the request to an examination by the Board.”

[53(5)]: “If the President has not submitted himself to an examination by the Board before the motion is made in Parliament, the motion may be put to the vote, and if it is passed by the votes of not less than two thirds of the total number of members of Parliament, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the motion is passed.”

And this proposal is supposed to be passed by vote. Why would that be? Let's see:



The Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, where laws are enacted and governance is shaped. The ongoing call for constitutional reform demands a stronger legislative system to ensure democracy and accountability



The aftermath of Sheikh Hasin's downfall presents both challenges and opportunities as the country struggles to rebuild its political and institutional foundations

[70]: "A person elected as a member of Parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he – (a) resigns from that party; or (b) votes in Parliament against that party..."

In reality, there is no reason to think that anyone would want to speak well of the President at the risk of losing membership.

Now, let's look at how independent the Election Commission is:

[118(4)]: "The Election Commission shall be independent in the exercise of its functions and subject only to this Constitution and any other law."

That is, independent, but subject to this constitution and laws. Then, let's examine how far it is subordinated under constitution:

[118 (5)]: "Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service of Election

Commissioners shall be such as the President may, by order, determine:

Provided that an Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court."

Who will make laws in parliament and on whose advice will the President give all the orders?

We have already seen Article 70 and 48(3); which provided the answer. It is the PM. Hence, there is no opportunity for election commissioners to go against the will of the PM. After summing up the above Articles, the logical consequence stands that all the power accumulates to the PM. It's the PM will, how he will nominate, operate, and execute the entire election machineries.

Justice:

The sixth part of the constitution is entitled as 'Judiciary'. This part has 3 chapters. From there, we will examine the issue of independence of the Chief Justice and other judges of the High Court:

[94(4)]: "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution the Chief Justice and the other Judges shall be independent in the exercise of their judicial functions."

Very nice words; but, there is a caveat at the beginning: "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution" they shall remain independent. So what are the provisions of the constitution?



The Office of the Prime Minister holds vast influence over Parliament, the judiciary, and the Election Commission, centralizing power in a manner critics argue undermines democratic principles



The Election Commission of Bangladesh remains a key institution in ensuring fair elections. However, constitutional loopholes limit its independence, as the appointment of commissioners is subject to the Prime Minister's influence

[95(1)]: “The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the President, and the other Judges shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice.”

Who will be chosen by the President as the Chief Justice? There is Article 48. It says the president has two duties, to appoint the prime minister and the chief justice, and will carry out all other duties in accordance to the prime

minister's advice. That means the president will act in accordance to the prime minister's directives.

Hypothetically, if President goes to appoint a Chief Justice beyond the preference of PM; then what are the probable consequences?

We have already observed Article [53. (1)]. This Article reflects the fate of President if he dares to disobey the PM!

Even after that, let's assume, after becoming a judge, someone goes to work independently and become the Prime Minister's displeasure. Then, the track of consequences:

[96 (2)]: “A Judge shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed pursuant to a resolution of Parliament supported by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of Parliament, on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.”

That means any judge can be removed by the PM, if two-thirds of the seats in Parliament are present and the President gives the order. It implies that, two-thirds of the seats in Parliament ensure the full control of judiciary. Parliament and President, both are obliged to PM as per Article 70 and Article 48 (3) respectively.

Let's explore the avenue of lower courts. Article 109 says that, the lower courts run on the directives of the higher courts.

[109]: “The High Court Division shall have superintendence and control over all courts and tribunals subordinate to it.” Then again, the salary and allowances, appointments, promotions and transfers will all be done by the president (Article 116).

[116]: “The control (including the power of posting, promotion and grant of leave) and discipline of persons employed in the judicial service and magistrates exercising judicial functions shall vest in the President and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court.”



The independence of the judiciary is central to democratic governance. However, under the current constitutional framework, judges are appointed under executive influence, limiting their ability to act freely



The spirit of the 1971 Liberation War continues to inspire calls for constitutional reform, ensuring the values of democracy and freedom are preserved in the governance of Bangladesh

So Articles 109 and 116 are contradictory! Again, Article 116 is contradictory to Article 22 which says, "The State shall ensure the separation of the judiciary from the executive organs of the State."

In this context of Article 48 (3), the lower court, through the president, is also under full control of PM.

Accountability of the Prime Minister:

We have seen above that the entire election and judicial system rests on the will and reluctance of whoever sits on the Prime Minister's chair as per the constitution. But, if there is any harm to the state or society or citizens or institutions due to his will and unwillingness? What will happen then? Will he be held accountable for this? Is there any chance of removing him?

Fourth Part of the Constitution is entitled as "The Executive". Its second chapter is for 'Prime Minister and Cabinet'.

[55(3)]: "The Cabinet shall be collectively responsible to Parliament."

Since the Cabinet will be formed under the authority of PM, he will also be responsible to the Parliament. Parliament can hold him accountable if it wants.

Who is the sole authority of Parliament? We have already seen that according to Article 70, it is the PM.

What are the ways for his exit? Parliament can do this:

[57(2)]: "If the Prime Minister ceases to retain the support of a

majority of the members of Parliament, he shall either resign his office or advise the President in writing to dissolve Parliament, and if he so advises the President shall, if he is satisfied that no other member of Parliament commands the support of the majority of the members of Parliament, dissolve Parliament accordingly."

But, Article 70 becomes the safeguard for PM.

Not only the elections or the judiciary, but the citizens of the state can be subjugated to the law and at the same time make the chief executive above all accountability, this constitution is a prime example of that. In other words, the present system being termed as democracy can actually turn into an autocratic system due to the structure and logical gap of the constitution.

There is no robust system to balance power or ensure accountability. So it would not be an exaggeration to say that in accordance to the constitution of Bangladesh, there is no scope to practice actual sustainable democracy.

Therefore, the reformed constitution should align with fundamental principles of democratic norms and the spirit of the liberation war.

Imran Khan
Banker | Policy Analyst
& Member of Chatham House
(Royal Institute of International Affairs), UK



LANDMARK YEAR FOR RUSSIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS: LAVROV'S VISIT AND ROOPPUR ADVANCEMENTS LEAD THE WAY

The year 2023 saw the first ever visit of the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to Bangladesh and a goodwill visit of the Russian Pacific Fleet to the port of Chattogram. Our flagship project Rooppur has been advancing significantly. With fresh nuclear fuel delivered to the construction site last year, now we are expecting the commissioning of the first power unit. Through vast exploration activities and drilling gas wells, Russian company Gazprom has been a reliable partner of Dhaka in its journey towards energy self-reliance. Russia remains one of the key suppliers of agricultural products, primarily wheat and fertilizers.

I thank you all for friendship and cooperation, bright initiatives and helping hands during my tenure in Bangladesh. These years will remain in my memory forever.

*Best regards,
H.E. Alexander Mantytskiy*

H.E. Alexander Mantytskiy served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the People's Republic of Bangladesh from May 19, 2021, to November 10, 2024. During his tenure, he played a key role in strengthening diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Russia, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding between the two nations.



FORCEFUL DISAPPEARANCES, ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT TRIAL: THE LIFE OF PALESTINIANS UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION

Mr. Ziad Hamad

The brutality of the Israeli occupation has escalated significantly since October 7th, with Israel using its genocide against the Palestinian people to intensify its colonial, expansionist and oppressive policies. The occupation continues to arbitrarily arrest Palestinian men, women, elderly people and minor children, blatantly practicing racism and revenge against the Palestinians. This is evident in the systematic violations against Palestinian prisoners and the reality of their difficult living conditions in the Israeli prisons. Palestinians suffer from torture and killing, deliberate medical neglect, sexual violence, starvation, and the enforced disappearance of thousands of civilians from the Gaza Strip



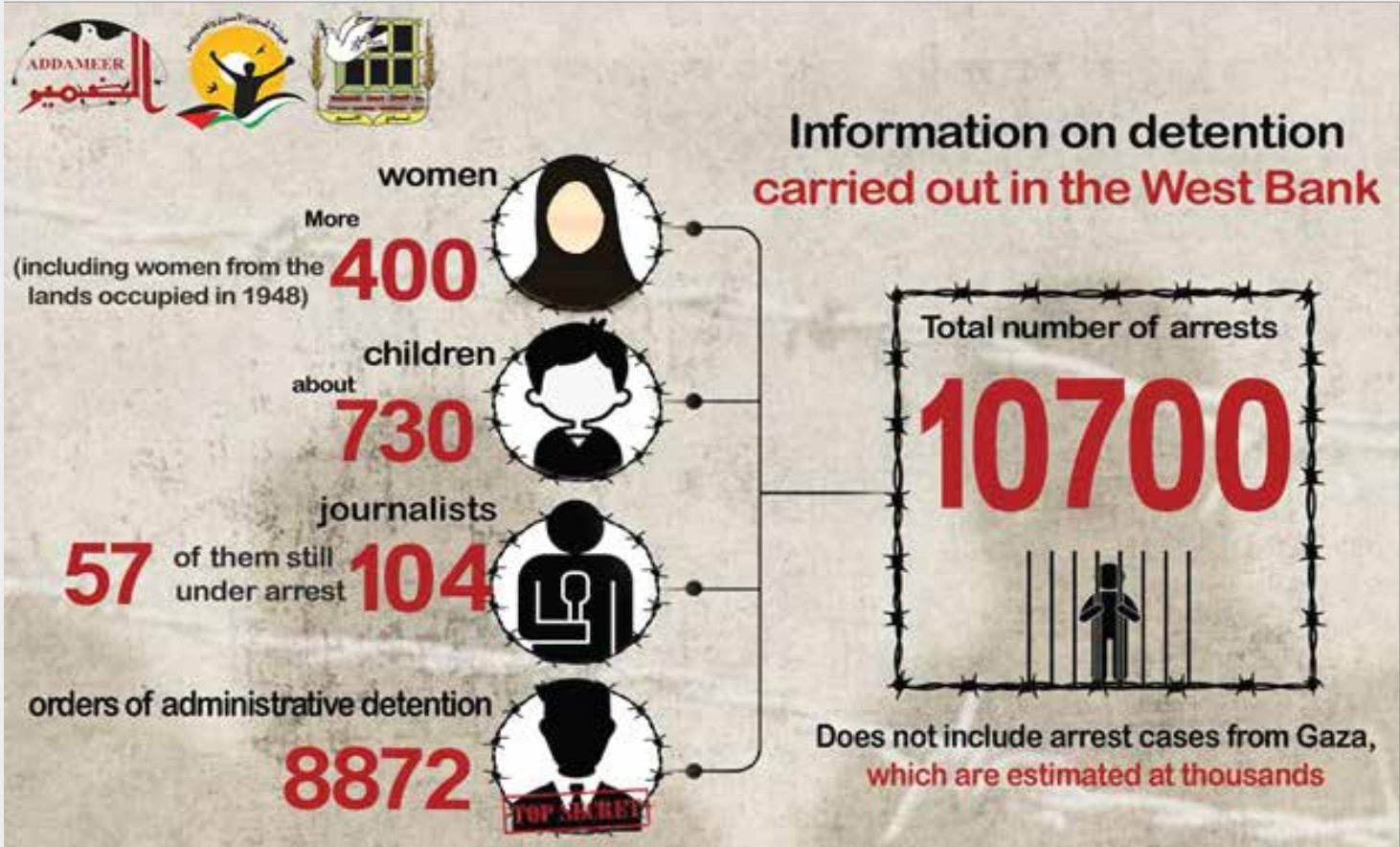
Israeli forces reportedly used aggressive methods, including deploying dogs and employing waterboarding tactics, on Palestinian detainees from Gaza, sparking international concern over treatment and human rights

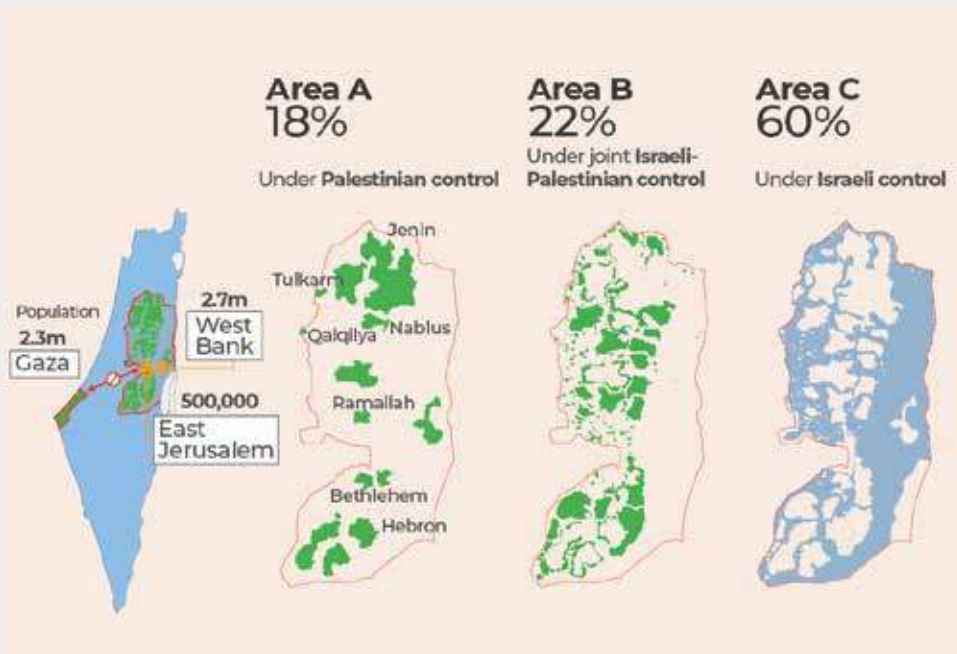
who were kidnapped by the occupation forces during their recent aggression. Additionally, the Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir continuously incites the occupation forces to execute

Palestinian prisoners. Consequently, the National Security Affairs Committee in the Israeli Knesset approved the law to execute Palestinian prisoners. The media leaked that what is happening in the

Israeli Sidiye Teiman prison replicates the horrors of the notorious Guantanamo prison. Prisoners are subjected to the most heinous forms of torture, humiliation, sexual assault and rape, in violation of all standards of humanity.

Palestinian prisoners lack the most basic necessities of life, as the conditions of imprisonment of more than 15,000 Palestinian prisoners (10,000 since October 7) have led to the spread of skin diseases, most notably scabies. The prison administration is working to transfer them from one section to another in order to spread infectious diseases among them. The mistreatment of sick prisoners, gross medical negligence and the deliberate procrastination in providing them with appropriate treatment has led to the martyrdom of twenty-four





subjected to this practice. In fact, any Palestinian can be arrested at any time.

Since October 7, the number of Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank held in Israeli prisons has reached 10,700, including 400 women, 730 minors, and 104 journalists. The rest remain under administrative detention imposed by Israeli authorities. As for the prisoners of the Gaza Strip who suffer from enforced disappearance and mass arrests under the 'unlawful combatants' law, the Israeli occupation acknowledges the detention of 4,500 prisoners since the onset of the aggression. However, the actual number is believed to be much higher, though information on exact figures and the identities of these prisoners remains scarce.

prisoners since October 7th inside the prisons.

The lives of Palestinian prisoners are marked by political and humanitarian issues, including being used as human shields and suffering through forceful disappearances. Many are detained for months before their families can learn

their whereabouts through international organizations. Additionally, the Israeli authorities frequently implement administrative detention orders, which allow them to detain individuals without formal charges, court trials, or indictments. More than 8,872 Palestinians, most of them children, have been

For decades, the Israeli occupation has practiced



Some Palestinian labourers have been crushed to death due to extreme confinement in overcrowded checkpoints [Activestills]



A man reacts as Palestinians search for casualties a day after Israeli strikes on houses in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip

arbitrary detention against Palestinians as a means of deterrence, suppression, and instilling fear to prevent acts of resistance. Over the past eleven months, Israeli prisons have become like mass graves, tightening the noose on prisoners. Prisoners, shackled in iron chains inside cramped cells,

face severe oppression—this is nothing but an act of revenge. Deprived of basic necessities, including privacy, they are under constant surveillance by cameras in prison rooms that are unfit for human life. The occupation's arrest policy is a strategy of suppression aimed at pressuring and exerting

psychological pressure on the Palestinian people. Prisoners face sentences that often span multiple life terms, isolating them from the outside world as a form of punishment for both them and their families. Israeli prisons are devoid of sunlight and fresh air, lack adequate clothing and personal supplies, and are overcrowded—conditions that have led to the spread of diseases among detainees.

This is not an isolated incident, but rather a systematic strategy aimed at breaking the will of the Palestinian people. Leaked photos and videos of torture reveal blatant violations of international law. Despite the documentation of hundreds of assault cases and the horrific testimonies of released prisoners, there has been no real change, nor has there been any significant international pressure or sanctions imposed to counter these policies by the Israeli occupation and its jailers.

Mr. Ziad Hamad
Deputy Head of Mission
Palestine Embassy

TÜRKİYE CELEBRATES 101ST REPUBLIC DAY WITH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR RAMİS ŞEN

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Dhaka celebrated the 101st anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye on October 29, 2024. The National Day Reception, hosted by H.E. Ambassador Ramis Şen and Mrs. Zühal Şen, brought together dignitaries, diplomats, and guests to honor Türkiye's rich legacy and future aspirations. In a message to the nation, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices of Türkiye's founders and heroes, emphasizing Türkiye's commitment to peace, security, and prosperity in the "Century of Türkiye." He also reiterated the country's resolve to overcome challenges and strengthen its position globally.





DIPLOMATIC HORIZONS: CHARTING THE FUTURE OF BANGLADESH-BRAZIL RELATIONS TOWARDS 2041

H.E. Mr. Paulo Fernando Dias Feres

A Historic Diplomatic Bond
The diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Brazil, dating back to 1972, is built upon shared interests and growing cooperation. Brazil was the first Latin American nation to recognize Bangladesh after its independence, marking a foundation for ongoing diplomatic engagement. Over the decades, both countries have exchanged high-level visits, expanded cooperation in diverse sectors, and opened embassies in each other's capitals. Though Brazil briefly closed its embassy in Dhaka from 1998 to 2009, its reopening signified a renewed

commitment to the bilateral relationship. This diplomatic engagement has evolved to encompass not only political and economic dialogue but also

cultural and sports exchanges, especially given the emotional connection Bangladesh has with Brazilian football.



His Excellency Mr. Paulo Fernando Dias Feres presented his credentials to Md. Abdul Hamid, Honorable former President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, at Bangabhaban on August 29, 2022. Upon his arrival, the new Ambassador was accorded a ceremonial guard of honor by the Presidential Guard Regiment

The establishment of a consultation mechanism in 2017 has further strengthened diplomatic ties. This system allows both countries to explore regional and global issues, enabling cooperation in multilateral forums like the United Nations. Additionally, Brazil has played a crucial role in providing medical aid to Bangladesh, contributing antimalarial medicine in 2018 and COVID-19 testing kits in 2020, reinforcing its humanitarian support.



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Hon'ble
President of Brazil

Economic Relations: Trade and Beyond

Brazil-Bangladesh economic relations have shown consistent growth, with trade between the two nations reaching an impressive \$2.72 billion in 2023. Brazil's agricultural sector plays a significant role, in exporting sugar, cotton, soybeans, and vegetable oils to Bangladesh. In return, Bangladesh's thriving ready-made garments (RMG) sector is the backbone of its exports to Brazil, with exports totaling \$118 million in 2021.

Despite this trade growth, the balance remains heavily tilted in favor of Brazil. Bangladesh is a large importer of raw materials and agricultural products, while its exports are primarily centered on textiles. However, there is tremendous potential for Bangladesh to diversify its export base and capitalize on Brazil's demand for other goods.

Brazil's meat industry offers a promising area for future collaboration. As one of the world's largest beef and poultry producers, Brazil could meet Bangladesh's rising demand for affordable,

high-quality meat, for the day by day life and major festivals like Eid. A more structured approach to negotiating trade agreements or preferential access within the MERCOSUR bloc could unlock this potential and reduce tariffs, further deepening trade relations.

Mutual Benefits in Key Sectors

1. Agricultural Innovation:

Brazil's status as a global leader in agricultural innovation can prove invaluable for Bangladesh, a country where agriculture remains a dominant industry. Brazil's advancements in agribusiness, machinery, and agricultural technology could help Bangladesh overcome productivity challenges, ensuring food security and economic growth. Collaborative efforts in sustainable farming practices, agricultural research, and climate-resilient crops can provide long-term benefits for both countries.

2. Clothing and Fashion: Brazil presents an emerging market for Bangladesh's garment exports, especially with its youthful population. Fashion-conscious young Brazilians have driven up demand for affordable yet stylish clothing, a space where Bangladesh excels. Expanding

into Brazil's fashion sector could enable Bangladesh's textile industry to establish a strong foothold in Latin America.

3. Pharmaceuticals: Brazil's growing healthcare sector offers a lucrative opportunity for Bangladesh's booming pharmaceutical industry. With a reputation for affordable, high-quality medicines, Bangladesh is well-positioned to increase its pharmaceutical exports to Brazil. This could diversify Bangladesh's export portfolio, helping to address the trade imbalance between the two nations.

4. Defense Cooperation: Another area of untapped potential is defense cooperation. Brazil, a major player in Latin America's defense industry, can offer Bangladesh expertise in military technology, training, and defense collaboration. This partnership would also allow both nations to enhance regional security and stability, as well as exchange knowledge in disaster response and military training.

Cultural Diplomacy: Football as a Bridge

Cultural diplomacy has long been a key element in



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Brazilian Samba



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Brazil-Bangladesh relations, particularly through the shared passion for football. The Brazilian national football team enjoys an enormous fan base in Bangladesh, which reaches its peak during the FIFA World Cup. The streets of Bangladesh are often adorned with Brazilian flags, and fans fervently cheer for the Seleção. This emotional connection transcends borders and fosters a cultural bond that few diplomatic tools can match.

Leveraging this cultural affinity, both nations can use football as a vehicle for stronger people-to-people ties. Brazilian football academies or exchange programs aimed at nurturing Bangladeshi youth talent could serve as platforms for cultural exchange. Football tournaments, youth programs, and sports exchanges can further deepen this emotional connection, opening avenues for cooperation in sports diplomacy.

International Collaboration: Multilateral Diplomacy

On the global stage, Brazil and Bangladesh share common views on issues like sustainable development, climate change, and poverty eradication. Both nations are active players in the United Nations and often support each other's candidacies for key international roles. Brazil has extended its support to Bangladesh in various UN positions, and Bangladesh has done the same for Brazil.

Looking towards global governance, Brazil's potential backing of Bangladesh's inclusion in the BRICS grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) would mark a significant leap in



Tourism in Brazil

Bangladesh's international standing. As a member of BRICS, Bangladesh would gain access to larger economic markets and deeper diplomatic influence, while Brazil could gain a stronger ally in South Asia. This collaboration within multilateral organizations presents both nations with the opportunity to influence global policies, from climate action to trade liberalization.

Vision for 2041: Challenges and Opportunities

The future of Bangladesh-Brazil relations looks promising, with multiple avenues for enhanced cooperation by 2041:

Strategic Partnerships: Both countries are poised to establish strategic partnerships in sectors like food security, energy, and

environmental sustainability. With Bangladesh's growing energy needs and Brazil's wealth of natural resources, energy collaboration could benefit both countries. Furthermore, joint initiatives on climate change and environmental conservation will be essential in addressing shared vulnerabilities.

Expanded Trade: Bilateral trade will likely see robust growth, with Bangladesh gaining increased access to the MERCOSUR market through preferential trade agreements (PTAs). Such agreements could eliminate tariff barriers for Bangladesh's RMG and pharmaceutical exports, creating a more balanced trade relationship and enabling Bangladesh to penetrate Brazil's burgeoning consumer market.

Cultural Diplomacy: Sports diplomacy, particularly through football, will continue to be a unique vehicle for cultural exchange between Brazil and Bangladesh. The expansion of football-related programs and cultural exchanges will deepen people-to-people connections, creating a lasting diplomatic bridge between the two nations.

Geopolitical Collaboration: As Bangladesh strengthens its ties with global powers, its collaboration with Brazil in multilateral forums will continue to expand. The two nations share common objectives in areas like poverty reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development. As Bangladesh moves towards becoming a middle-income country by 2041, its cooperation with Brazil in these areas will enhance both countries' roles in global governance.

While geographic distance and tariff barriers present challenges, the future of Bangladesh-Brazil relations holds immense promise. With opportunities to collaborate in trade, agriculture, culture, and international forums, both nations are well-positioned to strengthen their diplomatic and economic ties in the coming decades. By capitalizing on these shared interests, Bangladesh and Brazil can forge a deeper, more strategic partnership that benefits both nations well into 2041 and beyond.

H.E. Mr. Paulo Fernando Dias Feres
Ambassador
Embassy of Brazil in Dhaka, Bangladesh



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BUILDING A JUST FUTURE: PROF YUNUS PRESENTS A NEW BANGLADESH AT THE UNGA

AKM Sayedad Hossain

In an address that echoed across the globe, Professor Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, stood before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday, 27 September, delivering a speech that outlined a vision of transformation, hope, and unity for his country. Speaking in Bangla, Prof. Yunus took the opportunity to showcase Bangladesh's journey of profound change, driven by the aspirations of its people, particularly its youth. This was his first major international appearance as the leader of the interim government

following a wave of historic uprisings in July and August 2024.

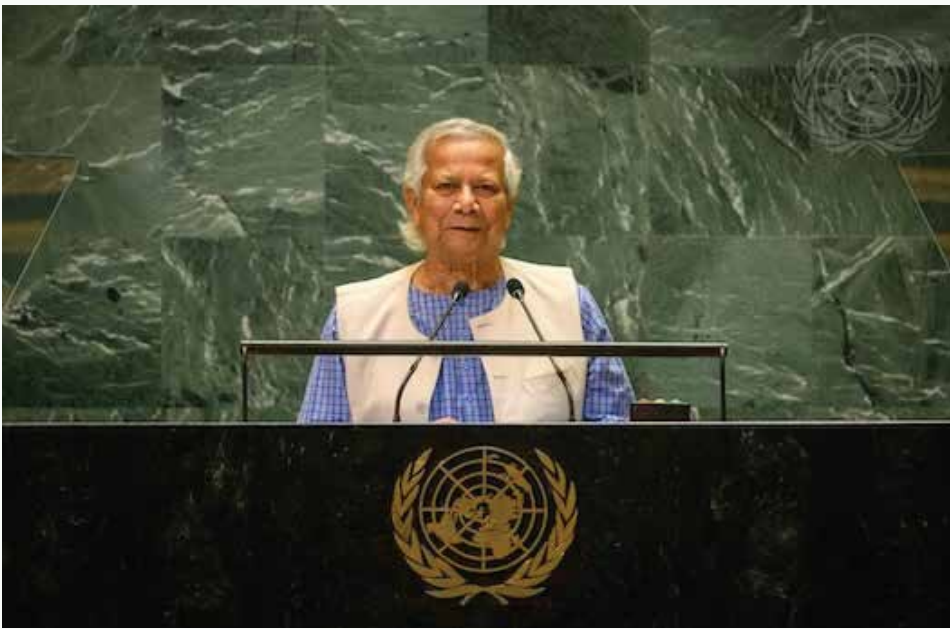
A Leader Emerges After Youth-Led Uprising

Prof. Yunus highlighted that the transformative journey Bangladesh is undergoing was sparked by the immense power of its young people. He emphasized that the youth-led mass uprisings that shook the nation were not just a call for political reform but a demand for justice, equity, and a brighter future. The power of the students, their courage, and their desire for a better Bangladesh were a recurrent

theme in his speech, where he credited the youth with bringing an end to an undemocratic and autocratic regime.

"The power of the ordinary people, particularly our youth, gave Bangladesh an opportunity to overhaul many of our systems and institutions," said Prof. Yunus. He continued to stress how the uprising, initially centered on ending discrimination, grew into a broader movement for democracy, freedom, and justice.

In these mass protests, students from all walks of life took to the



Professor Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, addresses the United Nations General Assembly, outlining his vision for a just and inclusive future for Bangladesh

streets, braving bullets and tear gas. The movement, though born out of student frustrations, soon became a people's movement, symbolizing a collective struggle against corruption, autocracy, and injustice. "School-going teenagers laid down their lives. Hundreds lost their eyes, forever. Mothers, day laborers, and people from all over lent their shoulders to support the movement," he said, describing the emotional intensity of the uprising.

A New Bangladesh: Reforming for a Just and Equitable Future

As Bangladesh emerges from this period of upheaval, Prof. Yunus spoke of his government's commitment to building a new Bangladesh, one that is rooted in justice, inclusivity, and equity. He shared his government's plans for comprehensive reforms that touch every aspect of society—from the political to the economic.

Under Prof. Yunus' leadership, the interim government has already launched independent commissions to reform key areas

such as the electoral system, judiciary, law enforcement, and civil administration. Additionally, efforts are underway to reform the constitution itself. These reforms, according to Prof. Yunus, aim to restore public trust in state institutions and pave the way for free and fair elections, ensuring that democracy is upheld for all citizens.

In his speech, Prof. Yunus also acknowledged the depth of the challenge before his government.

When they took office, they found a state apparatus riddled with corruption, where key institutions were politicized, public funds were depleted, and oligarchs held control over vast sectors of the economy. Addressing this decay, he said, was vital to rebuilding the nation.

"We were asked to rebuild Bangladesh, to correct the ills of the past and build a competitive and agile economy," Prof. Yunus said, reiterating his focus on improving sectors like education and health to create more opportunities for the most disadvantaged members of society. The emphasis, he said, would be on ensuring that even the children of farmers and workers could aspire to the highest positions in society.

Global Challenges and Climate Justice

Beyond Bangladesh's internal challenges, Prof. Yunus used his platform to call for global attention to pressing issues such as climate change, conflict, and inequality. He warned of the existential threats posed by climate change, especially to



Young protestors in Dhaka take to the streets during the mass uprisings of July and August 2024, demanding political reform and justice. The student-led movement played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's future



Flood victims navigate submerged streets in eastern Bangladesh. Prof. Yunus called for urgent global action on climate change, as over five million people were affected by unprecedented flooding

countries like Bangladesh, which have already been grappling with devastating floods. “As I speak, over five million people witnessed a most devastating flood in their living memory, in eastern Bangladesh,” he noted.

Prof. Yunus called for stronger global efforts to achieve climate justice. He urged wealthy nations to take responsibility for their role in global warming and provide more resources to countries vulnerable to climate change. He stressed the need for access to life-saving technologies in agriculture, water management, and public health for climate-affected regions.

A key part of his climate appeal was the need for urgent implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund, a crucial mechanism aimed at helping vulnerable nations cope with the impacts of climate change. Prof. Yunus also emphasized that achieving zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions should be a shared vision for the world. He believes that fostering entrepreneurship, particularly

among young people, and embracing social business models can help drive this vision forward.

Commitment to Peace and Human Rights

In line with Bangladesh’s strong history of peacekeeping contributions, Prof. Yunus reaffirmed the country’s dedication to global peace efforts. Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, with Bangladeshi troops serving in 43 countries and making significant

sacrifices. He stated that the interim government would continue its value-driven contributions to peace operations, with human rights being a central tenet of these efforts.

At the same time, Prof. Yunus turned his attention to the Rohingya crisis, which remains one of the most pressing humanitarian issues facing Bangladesh. Hosting over 1.2 million Rohingya refugees has placed immense socio-economic and environmental strain on the country. The Chief Adviser called for greater international support in ensuring the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of the Rohingya people to their homes in Myanmar. He also stressed the importance of justice and accountability for the grave human rights violations committed against the Rohingyas.

Prof. Yunus didn’t shy away from addressing other global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the ongoing violence in Gaza. He condemned the genocide in Gaza, calling it an affront to humanity and urging the international



Rohingya refugees in a camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Prof. Yunus called for greater international support to ensure the safe and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar



Prof. Yunus emphasized the importance of empowering youth through education and entrepreneurship to drive economic and social progress in Bangladesh

community to hold those responsible accountable. His speech also highlighted the urgent need for diplomatic solutions to global conflicts, including the protracted war in Ukraine, which has affected Bangladesh's economy as well.

Call to Invest in Youth: The Future Leaders

One of the central themes of Prof. Yunus' speech was his unwavering belief in the power of young people. He urged world leaders to invest in the potential of youth, not just in Bangladesh but globally. "Young people, not just in Bangladesh but across the world, are central to solving pressing global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and inequality," he said. Prof. Yunus argued that

empowering youth through education, entrepreneurship, and innovation would be key to building a fairer, more equitable world.

He pointed to Bangladesh's experience, where young activists were at the forefront of the recent mass uprising, as proof of the power that young people hold in shaping political consciousness and driving societal change. He called for creating environments where young people can thrive, innovate, and lead, positioning them as the key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Prof. Yunus also highlighted his vision of a world where young people are not just job seekers

but entrepreneurs who can create social businesses that balance profits with social responsibility. He sees this model as a powerful tool to address issues like climate change, poverty, and inequality.

A Message of Hope and Unity

As he concluded his speech, Prof. Yunus offered a message of hope and unity. Reflecting on the legacy of Bangladesh's struggle for independence, he connected the aspirations of the youth today with the values that have long defined the nation: freedom, dignity, and justice. He urged the global community to engage with the "new Bangladesh," a country striving to realize its democratic aspirations and build a future rooted in equity and inclusion.

"The world may be changing rapidly, but the values that our youth are upholding remain timeless," he said. Prof. Yunus' address to the UNGA was a powerful reminder of the resilience of the Bangladeshi people and their determination to shape a better future. As Bangladesh stands at the crossroads of change, the speech laid out a clear vision for a nation that is ready to meet its challenges with courage, unity, and a commitment to justice for all.

AKM Sayedad Hossian
Associate Editor
Diplomats World

RICKSHAWS: DHAKA'S MOBILE ART

The rickshaw, a small, three-wheeled vehicle, is a symbol of Dhaka and Bangladesh. Handcrafted by artisans, these vehicles are painted with vibrant designs featuring flowers, animals, historical events, and national heroes. Adorned with tassels and plastic flowers, rickshaws become moving art exhibitions, integral to urban life. The craft, taught orally and through practice, involves both men and women painters. Celebrated in festivals and media, rickshaws represent a dynamic form of urban folk art and a shared cultural identity. In 2023, UNESCO recognized the cultural significance of this tradition by inscribing Dhaka's rickshaws and rickshaw paintings on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER H.E. DATO SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM AND HON'BLE CHIEF ADVISER PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD YUNUS HELD A TETE-A-TETE FOLLOWED BY A BILATERAL TALK AT THE HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL

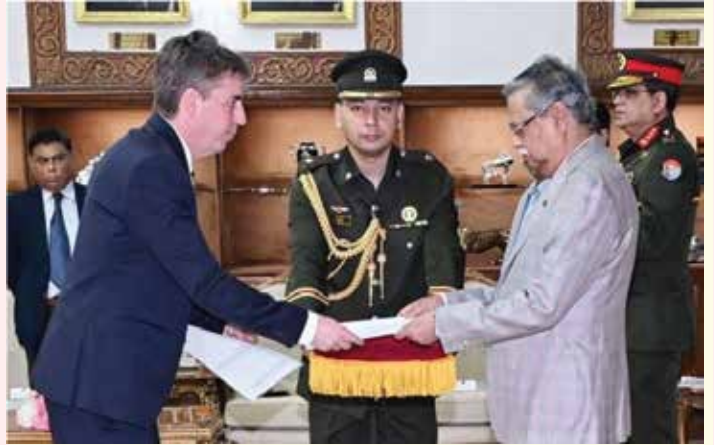


Two leaders discussed issues of mutual interests including Bangladesh-Malaysia cooperation in the fields of political, economic, trade & investment, education, technology, manpower, and infrastructure development.

Issues of repatriation of the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) and Bangladesh's bid for the ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, economic development, governance, and commencing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations were featured prominently in the discussion.

After the bilateral talks, a high tea was hosted by Hon'ble Chief Adviser in honour of the visiting Prime Minister.

BANGLADESH WELCOMES NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR NICOLAS WEEKS

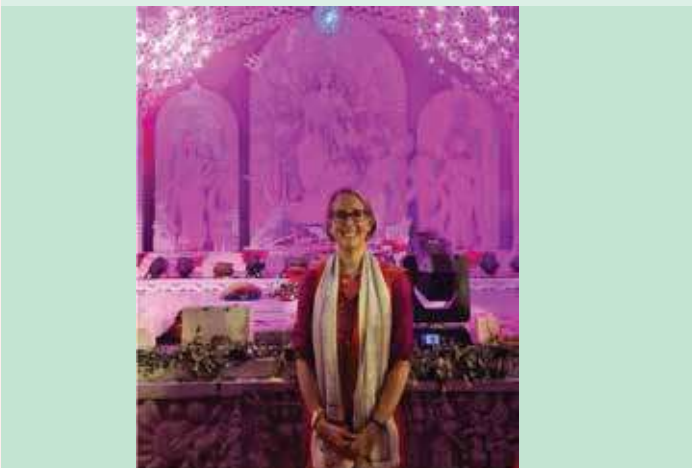


On October 2, 2024, Bangladesh warmly welcomed H.E. Nicolas Weeks, the newly appointed Swedish Ambassador, as he presented his credentials to the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Ambassador Weeks remarked, "Sweden and Bangladesh have shared a strong partnership for over five decades, built on development cooperation and expanding trade relations. Bangladesh's impressive progress is inspiring, and Swedish companies play a vital role in advancing green and digital initiatives that promote sustainable growth."

Ambassador Weeks, who previously served as the Swedish Ambassador to Bolivia, brings a distinguished diplomatic career to his new role. His leadership is expected to further strengthen the enduring ties between Sweden and Bangladesh.

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER SARAH COOKE CELEBRATES DURGA PUJA IN BANANI



On October 12, British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke joined the Durga Puja celebrations in Banani, expressing her pleasure in participating in the vibrant festival. Highlighting the importance of religious freedom, Cooke stated, "Freedom of religious belief is a fundamental human right, and this year, I was invited to celebrate Durga Puja with friends in Banani. The UK government is committed to promoting respect for religious groups in Bangladesh and around the world." The celebration underscored the strong ties between the UK and Bangladesh in fostering cultural and religious harmony.

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MEETS CHIEF ADVISER OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL COOPERATION



On October 3, 2024, the Ambassador of Italy in Dhaka had the honor of being received by Prof. Yunus, the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh. During the meeting, both sides discussed opportunities for further cooperation between Italy and Bangladesh across various sectors.

The Italian Ambassador conveyed Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni's message of strong support for Bangladesh, emphasizing Italy's commitment to deepening bilateral relations. Both nations expressed optimism about expanding their partnership in key areas, reinforcing the long-standing ties between Italy and Bangladesh.

SWISS AMBASSADOR RETO RENGGLI MEETS CHIEF JUSTICE OF BANGLADESH TO DISCUSS JUDICIAL REFORMS



On October 22, 2024, Ambassador Reto Renggli of Switzerland paid a courtesy visit to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh at the Supreme Court. During the meeting, the Chief Justice emphasized the need for reforms to further strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

Key topics discussed included the Supreme Court's priorities in upholding the rule of law, ensuring fair legal processes, and improving access to justice for all citizens. Ambassador Renggli expressed Switzerland's continued support for Bangladesh's efforts to maintain a robust and impartial judicial system, reinforcing the shared commitment to democratic principles and justice for all.

EU-BANGLADESH PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENED AS NEW EU AMBASSADOR MICHAEL MILLER MEETS PRESIDENT



In a historic moment for EU-Bangladesh relations, Michael Miller, the newly appointed European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh, was formally received by President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban. This meeting marked a significant step in further solidifying the longstanding ties between the European Union and Bangladesh, which have been flourishing for more than five decades.

During the discussion, Ambassador Miller and President Shahabuddin focused on how the European

Union can support Bangladesh through the current period of unprecedented change, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing shared global challenges. Ambassador Miller reaffirmed the EU's readiness to "broaden and deepen" the EU-Bangladesh Partnership, securing mutual interests and reinforcing the shared values of democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

The meeting symbolized the continued commitment of the European Union to stand by Bangladesh and its people, as both entities work toward a more prosperous and resilient future. This partnership remains a key driver in strengthening political, economic, and cultural exchanges between the two regions, opening new avenues for cooperation in areas of mutual importance.

AMBASSADOR YAO WEN MEETS BANGLADESH NAVY OFFICIALS TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES

On October 12th, 2024, H.E. Mr. Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh, and commanders of the Chinese naval fleet Qi Jiguang and Jing Gangshan, called on Rear Admiral Masud Iqbal, Commander of the Chattogram Naval Area, Rear Admiral Md Moinul Hassan, Commander of the Bangladesh Navy Fleet, and Rear Admiral S M Moniruzzaman, Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority.

The two sides had in-depth exchanges of views on China-Bangladesh friendship and cooperation. Both parties conveyed their strong confidence in the development of China-Bangladesh relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening defense and security cooperation.

Ambassador Yao Wen said that, China and Bangladesh are traditionally friendly neighbors and comprehensive strategic cooperative partners. No matter what changes have taken place in the domestic situation of Bangladesh, China's commitment to developing China-Bangladesh relations remains unchanged. China is looking forward to working closely with Bangladesh to cement our traditional friendship, deepen friendly exchanges and mutually-beneficial cooperation in various areas, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and further advance the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to a new height.

DUTCH SUPPORT DEEPENS FOR BANGLADESH'S LONG-TERM RIVER AND DELTA MANAGEMENT

In a significant boost to Bangladesh's river and delta management efforts, the Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh and the World Bank's Country Director have signed an agreement to advance Dutch contributions to the Jamuna River Sustainable Management Project-1. The project aims to enhance flood control and navigation capacity along the Jamuna River using an adaptive delta management approach and nature-based solutions.

This initiative also focuses on creating economic opportunities in regions with a poverty rate of 37%, where communities are severely impacted by climate-related disasters and displacement. By integrating Dutch expertise, the project will help strengthen Bangladesh's resilience against climate risks and foster sustainable development in vulnerable areas.

U.S. STRENGTHENS BANGLADESH'S DISASTER RESPONSE WITH \$30,000 EQUIPMENT DONATION TO FIRE SERVICE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Megan Bouldin, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, announced a significant contribution to the Fire Service and Civil Defense of Bangladesh (FSCD), aimed at enhancing disaster resilience and emergency response capabilities. The U.S. has donated Swift Water Rescue and HAZMAT equipment valued at over \$30,000.

This donation marks the continuation of a five-year-long commitment by the U.S. to support and train first responders in Bangladesh. The contribution will improve FSCD's ability to respond to disasters, further solidifying the strong partnership between the two nations in disaster preparedness and emergency management.

TEAM EUROPE PARTNERS WITH BANGLADESH CLIMATE ACTION FORUM FOR GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION



In a significant step towards accelerating the green energy transition, Team Europe has officially partnered with the Bangladesh Climate Action Forum. This collaboration aims to support Bangladesh's efforts in combating climate change while fostering sustainable development.

During the announcement, Michael Miller, the European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh, highlighted the transformative potential of this

partnership. "Climate action is not just a necessity, but also an opportunity," Miller stated. "It's an opportunity to build a more competitive, resilient, just, and sustainable sector that meets the needs of both the present and future generations."

Through Team Europe Initiatives, the European Union is investing heavily in the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) sector, ensuring it adheres to labor and social standards while promoting greener, cleaner, and more inclusive growth. This collaboration is poised to significantly enhance the sustainability efforts of one of Bangladesh's most vital industries, setting a precedent for a future of climate resilience.

The partnership underscores the European Union's commitment to supporting Bangladesh in its journey towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly economy, ensuring the benefits of climate action reach all corners of society.

ALGERIAN EMBASSY IN DHAKA COMMEMORATES THE OCTOBER 17, 1961 MASSACRE



On October 17, 2024, the Algerian Embassy in Dhaka marked the 63rd anniversary of the October 17, 1961 massacre in Paris, where French police, under orders from police prefect Maurice Papon, brutally killed hundreds of peaceful Algerian demonstrators protesting a racist curfew.

This massacre, a pivotal moment in the Algerian Revolution, strengthened Algerian resolve and, along with diaspora support, contributed to Algeria's independence on July 5, 1962. The Dhaka ceremony honored the victims and celebrated Algeria's enduring spirit of resistance.

"Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Long live Algeria," was the resounding message of the commemoration.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATION AWARDED TO DR. SHEIKH ALEEMUZZAMAN IN DHAKA



On October 10, 2024, H.E. Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, the Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, conferred the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Dr. Sheikh Aleemuzzaman during a special ceremony at the Ambassador's residence in Dhaka. The award, given on behalf of Japan's Foreign Minister, recognized Dr. Aleemuzzaman's significant contributions to advancing medical collaboration between Japan and Bangladesh. As General Secretary of the Japan-Bangladesh Medical Association (JBMA), he played a key role in promoting medical exchanges and introducing Japanese medical devices to Bangladesh. His efforts, including securing a \$10,000 donation for injured individuals, showcased his dedication. Prof. Md. Sayedur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of BSMMU, and Prof. Nazmul Hosain from the Ministry of Health, were present to celebrate his achievements.

UAE AMBASSADOR MEETS BANGLADESH FOREIGN SECRETARY TO BOOST BILATERAL TIES AND EXPLORE NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION



His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Ali AlHmoudi, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh, met with Foreign Secretary Mr. Md. Jashim Uddin at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The high-level discussion aimed at strengthening the diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations, covering crucial topics such as streamlining visa processes, expanding trade and investment, and advancing social welfare initiatives.

Ambassador AlHmoudi acknowledged the significant Bangladeshi workforce in the UAE, commending their contributions across key sectors such as hospitality, finance, banking, and healthcare. Discussions also delved into investment opportunities, with the Ambassador expressing the interest of UAE companies like logistics giant DP World, renewable energy leader MASDAR, air services provider Dnata, and potential collaboration with the Al-Nahiyen Trust to advance social welfare efforts in Bangladesh.

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the importance of remittances sent by Bangladeshi expatriates, underscoring their impact on Bangladesh's economy. He also extended gratitude to the UAE government for its recent general pardon granted to convicted Bangladeshi nationals who had previously supported the student-led mass movement in Bangladesh, fostering goodwill between the two nations.

In light of the ongoing reforms by Bangladesh's interim government aimed at political and economic stability, the Foreign Secretary emphasized the importance of addressing visa-related challenges, specifically pending employment visa applications, to facilitate smoother movement for Bangladeshi workers. Ambassador AlHmoudi assured that these issues would be prioritized.

The meeting also touched on the possibility of high-level political exchanges, underscoring a commitment to advancing mutual cooperation. Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin reaffirmed that the deep-rooted friendship between Bangladesh and the UAE remains steadfast, resilient, and unaffected by changing circumstances, reflecting the enduring strength of their bilateral relationship.

ESTONIAN AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DISCUSSES BILATERAL COOPERATION AND ICT COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER IN MAIDEN VISIT



The newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Estonia to Bangladesh, Her Excellency Marje LUUP, paid her inaugural courtesy visit to Hon'ble Adviser for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Md. Touhid Hossain, at Dhaka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Adviser Hossain congratulated Ambassador LUUP on her appointment and discussed Bangladesh's reform initiatives under the Interim government.

Their meeting covered bilateral topics, with both sides committed to strengthening Bangladesh-Estonia relations. Ambassador LUUP highlighted Estonia's ICT sector advancements, particularly in e-governance and cybersecurity, and expressed interest in collaborating to support Bangladesh's ICT growth. They also discussed possible student exchange programs to enhance knowledge-sharing and skills in IT.

Earlier, Ambassador LUUP presented her credentials to the Hon'ble President, marking her tenure's official start as Estonia's non-resident Ambassador to Bangladesh.

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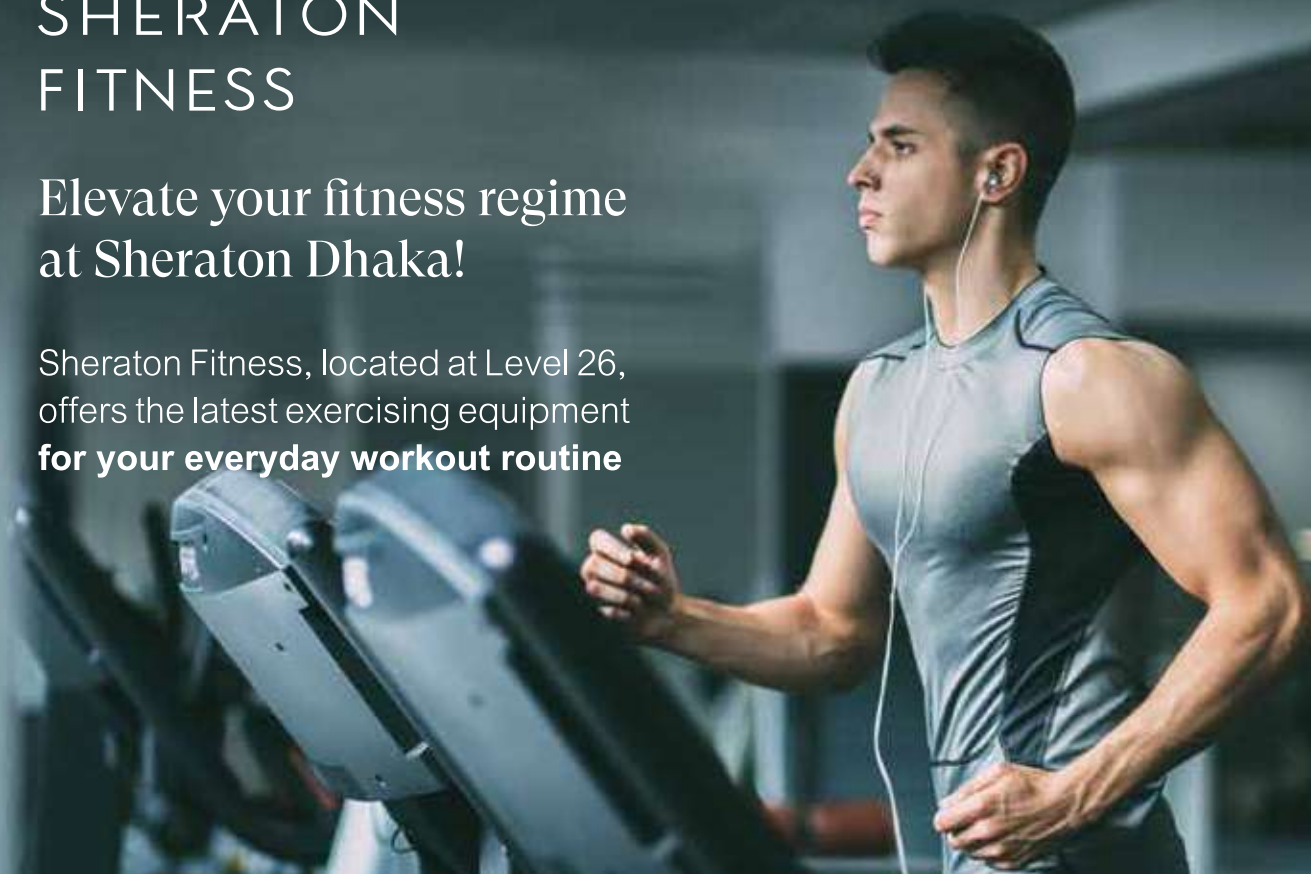
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