

London • Dhaka • New York

September 2024

DIPLOMATS WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

**Critical Analysis on Indo Bangla Relations in the
Wake of Successful Student Movement**

Roundtable Seminar on
Dynamics of Relationships with Neighbors in the Post-Bangladesh Student
Revolution under the Current Regional Geopolitical Conditions

Mutual Solidarity and Growth:
Türkiye-Bangladesh Relations in Focus as Türkiye Celebrates 101 Years

Human Rights and Political Reforms





BUSINESS UNITS

Textiles

Garments

Real Estate

Brokerage House

Automobiles

Power/LP Gas (Service)

Building Materials

Packaging

Telecom

Media

Agro Industry

Transportation

Information Technology

HEAD OFFICE & FACTORY:
Nowpara, Madhabdi,
Narsingdi-1604 Bangladesh
Phone : +88 09610 110 220-5
www.jajbhuiyangroup.com

CORPORATE OFFICE:
Gawsia Kashem Centre, 7th Floor,
10/2 Arambag, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
Phone : +88 02 41 070 208 -15
+88 09610 110 220-5

BARIDHARA DOHS OFFICE:
House no- 322 (Ground Floor).
Road no-5, Phone : +88 02 8416905

BEHIND DIPLOMATS

Board of Advisors

Executive Advisor

Abul Hasan Chowdhury

Fmr. State Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoB

Advisors

Shahagir Bakth Faruk, Educationalist

Mohammed Bazlur Rahman CIP, Entrepreneur

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Academician & Researcher

Dr. Mohammed Faruque, Entrepreneur

Barrister Monwar Hossain, Lawyer

A.S. Abdul Muiz (Sujon), Entrepreneur, Academician

Prof. Dr. Abu Nasir Rizvi, Physician, Academician

Aminur Rahman, Entrepreneur

Md. Abu Sadeq, Entrepreneur

Mohammad Fayazur Rahman Bhuiyan, Entrepreneur

Liakot Ali Bhuiyan, Entrepreneur

Md. Niaz Morshed Elite, Entrepreneur

Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD, Security Analyst

Founder & Fmr. Editor

Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen

Fmr. Foreign Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoB

Editor

Shahed Akhtar

Ambassador & Fmr. Secretary, GoB

Executive Editor

Nazinur Rahim

Associate Editor

AKM Sayedad Hossain

Assistant Editor

Md. Aynul Hoque, PhD

Dr. Rehena Akhter

Creative Editor

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

Creative and Multimedia Editor

Babli Yasmin

Contributing Editor

Ayesha S Chowdhury

Co-ordinator

Sheikh Nazia Hasan

Contributors

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed

H.E. Ramis Şen

Prof. Dr. Aynul Hoque

H.E. Ghanshyam Bhandari

Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD

Dr. Hla Myint

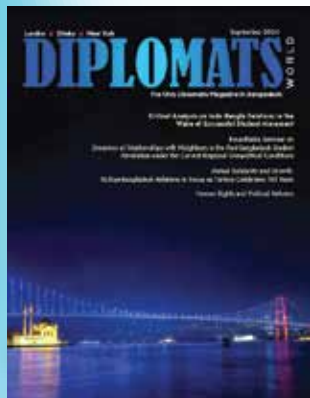
Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Design & Layout

Afifa Mahjabeen

Publisher

Nazinur Rahim



Cover Image: Martyrs Bridge
(Located in Istanbul, Türkiye)

Address: House-58, Road-03, Block-B, Niketon Society Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Phone: +88 024881 2430, Hotline: +880 1972344788, email: info@diplomats.news
www.diplomats.news

CONTENT

P-07

Critical Analysis on Indo Bangla Relations in the Wake of Successful Student Movement

P-18

Mutual Solidarity and Growth:
Türkiye-Bangladesh Relations in Focus as
Türkiye Celebrates 101 Years

P-28

Elevating Nepal-Bangladesh Diplomatic
Relations: Paving the Way for Strategic
Partnership and Shared Prosperity

P-39

It is imperative for the UN to protect
the Rohingya

P-48

Diplomats Flash Corner

P-12

Human Rights and Political Reforms

P-23

Diversifying Bangladesh's Export
Basket: A Timely Strategy for a
Sustained Economic Growth

P-33

Roundtable Seminar on
Dynamics of Relationships with Neighbors in
the Post-Bangladesh Student Revolution under
the Current Regional Geopolitical Conditions

P-44

Student Protest and Hasina's Downfall in
Bangladesh: Causes and Consequences

September 2024 witnessed critical shifts in Bangladesh's political landscape. As the interim government marked its first month, Chief Adviser Prof. Yunus addressed the nation, outlining a bold reform agenda. Six commissions were established to overhaul the Judiciary, Electoral System, Administration, Police, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Constitution. These commissions aim to foster governance centered on public accountability, integrity, and welfare, with their findings expected by December 2024. These reforms are intended to safeguard against the resurgence of authoritarianism and fascism.

Prof. Yunus, backed by a widely supported team of advisors, also addressed the nation's economic challenges. He criticized the previous government's cronyism and emphasized the need for unity in national rebuilding efforts. To this end, the Interim Government Ordinance 2024 was enacted, solidifying the interim government's legal framework.

On the international front, the United States has strongly endorsed Bangladesh's reform trajectory. A US delegation, led by Assistant Secretary Brent Neiman of the Treasury Department, visited Dhaka, affirming US commitment to supporting Bangladesh's economic recovery. In high-profile meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Prof. Yunus engaged with US President Joe Biden, who expressed his full support for the interim government. He also secured fast-track financial support from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to aid the country's recovery.

In his address at the UN General Assembly, Prof. Yunus underscored Bangladesh's urgent concerns, including the Rohingya crisis and climate change. Additionally, diplomatic relations with India saw a significant revival as Foreign Adviser Touhid met with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New York—marking the first high-level interaction since the change of government.

This edition of Diplomat's World presents in-depth analyses of these developments and their global implications.

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



IMPORTER, INDENTER,
CONTRACTOR & SUPPLIER



SS GROUP OF COMPANIES

RIVER DREDGING
RIVER BANK PROTECTION WORKS
CONSTRUCTION WORKS
IMPORT, INDENTERING & SUPPLY
MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS

SAFURA GREEN (LEVEL-A5), 761 SATMOSJID ROAD, DHANMONDI, DHAKA - 1209

01713429777, 01713429779

www.ssenterprise.com.bd





CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON INDO BANGLA RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF SUCCESSFUL STUDENT MOVEMENT

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Bangladesh-India relations are historical and multi-dimensional. Again, the relationship between these two close neighbors is very sensitive. As a result, it is very important for the peace, security and stability of South Asia that the relations between the two countries move in a positive direction based on balance, fairness, and equality.

In particular, in the context of the Rohingya crisis in Northeast India and neighboring Chattogram Hill Tracts and Southeast Bangladesh and the ongoing armed civil war in

Myanmar, both countries would do well to proceed with utmost caution in the development of mutual relations and understanding. But despite the good intentions of both countries, there are multifaceted conspiracies to destroy this healthy relationship. For this reason, it is necessary for both the countries to be vigilant and move the Bangladesh-India relationship forward to a positive and optimistic destination.

On September 11 at 7:30 p.m., the Chief Advisor gave a speech

to the nation marking one month since the interim administration was formed in response to a widespread student uprising. During his speech, Dr. Muhammad Yunus gave significant attention to the topic of relations between Bangladesh and India. In the speech, Dr. Yunus said that he wants good relations with neighboring countries including India. He said, however, that relationship should be based on fairness and equality. We have already started high-level bilateral cooperation talks with India on flood control. I have taken the



On September 11 at 7:30 p.m., Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus addresses the nation, marking one month of the interim administration and emphasizing balanced relations between Bangladesh and India.

initiative to revive the SAARC group of states with a view to enhancing regional cooperation in South Asia. He also said that Bangladesh should be known with respect to the world as a democratic country. The planning of the country should be centered on the people of the country, not on any leader or party.

Similarly, Pranoy Verma, the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, has said that he will work to advance Indo-Bangladesh relation to a positive direction. After the courtesy meeting with the new foreign secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jasimuddin, he further told the reporters, 'I have said earlier

that we are working closely with the government of Bangladesh to achieve the aspirations of peace, security and development applicable to both countries. We will continue to work to advance the relationship in various areas.

The Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of West Bengal congratulated the new government soon after the change of power in Bangladesh. Both the

countries hoped that the historical close relations between Bangladesh and India will continue intact. But these hopes will be successful only when various conspiracies to destroy the relationship between the two countries can be suppressed and it will be possible to avoid hot-headedness from the highest level.



The Bangladesh-India boundary, a space that symbolizes both cooperation and the need for careful diplomacy

It is important to mention that in the complex geopolitics of South Asia, there is a tendency for relations to deteriorate as well as for improving relations. There are multifaceted conspiracies that work openly and covertly to disturb the relations of different countries of the region. As a result, governments and leaders of the South Asia need to be very careful and vigilant about this.

For example, the behavior of the Indian media can be mentioned. When the student movement took place in Bangladesh, there were many



doubts about their campaign in print and electronic media in India. In particular, when student mobs, and even madrasa students, guarding Hindu homes and temples were showing success in confronting miscreants, inflammatory campaigns were noticed in the Indian media. Inciting unrest

without standing for peace made the Indian media questionable and untrustworthy at the time.

Disappointingly, the old and professional press has also been seen to tune in with the third-rate propaganda-based low-level media. After that

complex situation, such news is still being published in various media in India, which is not only offensive but harmful to the relationship. For example, the video reports of newspapers like India Today are saying that the new government is a threat to India; Bangladesh has become Pakistan 2.0 under the new government etc. Even, so called interview of some so called 'Bangladeshi militants' is spreading tension. It is hard to believe that the Government of India does not see this. If such anti-Bangladesh propaganda increases on Indian soil and in Indian media, India's goodwill towards developing relations with Bangladesh will be highly disputed and eventually the relations will suffer, which is neither desirable nor beneficial for any country.

From India's point of view, the reality must be kept in mind that



Bangladesh and India need cooperation to tackle the flood situation, as discussed in high-level bilateral talks



The flags of Bangladesh and India flying together, symbolizing the potential for peaceful, fair, and equal relations between the two nations

there is an anti-India political current in Bangladesh since long ago. Moreover, the previous Hasina government is generally perceived as pro-Indian force. And now Hasina is under the shelter of India. As a result, if anti-Bangladesh incitement is made on Indian soil or in the media, the reaction in the public mind of Bangladesh will be severe, which will further increase the level of anti-Indian campaign.

Hot comments from higher-ups also often damage relationships and cause adverse reactions.

Adviser to BNP Chairperson and former Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farooq said that India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh should apologize, but you are a minister but I am also a citizen of independent Bangladesh. You should apologize for the statement you made. The people of Bangladesh have a big heart. They know how to forgive. So no one will accept that do not make a statement about Bangladesh.

He said this at a protest rally organized by the 12-party alliance in front of the National

Press Club in the capital in the first week of September against India's aggressive statements threatening the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh. Moreover, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi commented that India is not working for Bangladesh's democracy but to return Sheikh Hasina's 'zamindari'.

Needless to say, unnecessary controversies and provocative political statements or false propaganda by anyone or the media will destabilize the situation. Those will be boomerang and India will face opposition. Opponents of India will get tools for criticism and opposition. Attempting to destroy relationships instead of improving them, or handing over weapons of opposition, is not a sign of any prudence. Rather, these are conspiracies to destroy Bangladesh-India relations. Therefore, aware people, objective media, and governments of both countries need to be alert about anti-Bangladesh incitement and lies in the Indian soil or in the media and strive to advance Bangladesh-India relations on the basis of balance, fairness and equality by countering various conspiracies.

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Chairman

Department of Political Science, Chattogram University and

Executive Director

Chattogram Center for Regional Studies Bangladesh (CCRSBD)

WEAVING ELEGANCE: THE TIMELESS APPEAL OF JAMDANI SAREE

Originating from the heart of Bangladesh, the Dhakai Jamdani saree embodies centuries of tradition and artistry. The term "Jamdani" itself reflects the rich history of this fabric, derived from Persian words meaning "flower" and "vase," showcasing the intricate floral motifs that adorn these exquisite garments.

Historically, the art of weaving Jamdani sarees dates back to ancient times, with mentions found in writings dating as far back as the 3rd century BC. During the Mughal era, this craft reached its zenith, as emperors bestowed royal patronage upon it, recognizing its unparalleled beauty and craftsmanship. However, with the decline of the Mughal Empire and the onset of British rule, Jamdani weaving faced challenges, experiencing a decline.

Since Bangladesh's independence, there has been a resurgence of interest in preserving and promoting this traditional art form. The Dhakai Jamdani saree, named after the capital city of Dhaka, has become synonymous with elegance and sophistication. Weavers in Dhaka district, especially along the banks of the Shitalakkhya river, have meticulously crafted these sarees for generations, using traditional methods passed down through families.

The recognition of Dhakai Jamdani as a Geographical Indication (GI) product is a significant milestone in Bangladesh's efforts to protect and promote its indigenous textiles. This prestigious status acknowledges Dhakai Jamdani's unique qualities, stemming from its geographical origin and centuries-old heritage.

Today, Dhakai Jamdani sarees continue to enchant women not only in Bangladesh but also across the globe. With its diverse motifs, including the iconic "thousand emeralds" and "paisley," each saree tells a story of skillful craftsmanship and cultural heritage. The resurgence of interest in Jamdani sarees reflects a growing appreciation for traditional textiles, ensuring that this timeless art form remains vibrant and cherished for generations to come.





HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL REFORMS

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed

Bangladesh's backsliding of human rights and democratic norms has been glaring. This is evident from the fact that a mass upsurge under the leadership of non-partisan students led to the quick fall of the Awami League regime, which had been in power since January 2009. Interestingly, the outcome resulted from the anti-quota movement, which quickly became a one-point demand for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation when the ruling party tried to contain it violently. The crackdown on the students and general population was brutal. Some estimates suggest that the number of deaths was as high as 819, including 83 children under 18 years old, from 16 July to 18 August 2024. Unless it is a case of psychosis, it remains a puzzle why the governmental machinery resorted to such excessive violence when the anti-quota movement was hardly

an existentialist threat. But whatever may have been the reason, the government in power is responsible for providing security to all its citizens. Since that got breached, and amid an unacceptable number of deaths, people in millions came out on the streets, forcing the military to impress upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and leave the country on 5 August 2024.

Populist movements are nothing new in the world, not even in Bangladesh. This is more the case in contemporary times, from Tunisia to Egypt, Libya to Sri Lanka, and now Bangladesh, where new technology, the internet, and mobile phones have helped mobilise millions of disgruntled, often humiliated people. But just like TikTok and similar apps played a monumental role in disseminating genocide and

mass killing live in Gaza, Palestine, so is the role of the internet and mobile phones in mobilising the young population for a just cause. But then, such mobilisation does not happen in a vacuum. This is where the disjuncture between the spirit of 1971 and its practice by the previous regime played a critical role in informing the young generation of injustices. The students felt humiliated, first in 2010 when the quota system was extended to the grandchildren of freedom fighters, which, following the student movement, led to its scrapping in 2018, and then again in June 2024 when a High Court judgment canceled the earlier order and restored the quota system. However, it was too late when the government effectively scrapped the quota system in favor of merit-based recruitment in governmental services following an intervention of the Supreme



Students protesting against the government during the anti-quota movement, July 2024, Dhaka

Court on 21 July 2024. Coercive measures on the part of governmental machinery, particularly the police, including student wings of the ruling party, transformed the anti-quota movement into a singular demand to overthrow the government. A new regime, backed by the military, supported by the students, and under the Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus' leadership, was installed on 8 August 2024.

The quota system may have been the immediate cause of agitation. Still, resentment had been brewing for over a decade or two due to the backsliding of human rights and

democratic norms and, more importantly, the gap between expectation and reality, including rampant corruption and economic hardship of a sizeable section of the population. Human rights abuses took the form of politically motivated forced disappearance and extra-judicial killing, both

reprehensible and causes for concern, nationally as well as internationally. The extra-judicial killings were high in 2018 and 2019, with as many as 614 and 530 deaths, respectively, with most of the deaths blamed on the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) of Bangladesh Police. This later led the United States to impose sanctions on the RAB on 10 December 2021. Still,

interestingly, in that year, the extra-judicial killings saw a decline, and it came down to 56. Even a single extra-judicial killing is unacceptable; it merits judicial inquiry. However, the declining trend indicated domestic and international pressure, including civil protests and media attention, impacted the security forces. However, international pressure can only have a symbolic value. In the end, only the people of Bangladesh, with their political consciousness and collective efforts, can bring down the number of extra-judicial killings to zero.

Enforced disappearance is equally reprehensible, and it is more so when carried out by the state machinery. In Bangladesh, it is allegedly carried out by a secret cell called Āynāghôr (literally 'House of Mirrors'), run by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) under the executive authority of the head of government, the Prime Minister. Since its inception in 1972, DGFI has primarily focused



A student holds a placard reading 'Talent Knows No Quota' during the anti-quota protests



A symbol of broken democracy, an empty voting booth with pre-filled ballots during the rigged January 2024 elections

on providing intelligence for the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Bangladesh, and the Armed Forces of Bangladesh. And since it has been under the executive authority of the head of government, the DGFI is practically controlled by the government, the Prime Minister, and not by the military chief or Armed Forces. However, statistics provided by Odhikar show that the DGFI did not carry out the bulk of the abductions. Out of 709 cases, only 9, the DGFI was involved in picking up the victims, while RAB picked up 206 people, the Detective Branch picked up 240, and 104 by other police agencies. Another 129 cases could not be identified. In this context, it is essential to distinguish between enforced disappearances and 'missing persons.' This is because the former includes 'state-sanctioned abductions,' while the state has no role in the latter. One can certainly debate whether enforced disappearances originated with the Awami League government or whether it has been a part of the state since colonial times, as some critics maintain, but this cannot be the

grounds for justifying the existence of Āynāghôr. More so because the colonial times are over, and the regime claims to have been democratically elected.

One cannot help but point out that effective security sector reforms are required. A beginning could be made by dismantling RAB and bringing DGFI under the control of the Armed Forces, with the head of the institution circulating among the three Chiefs of the Armed Forces but without the authority to abduct, arrest, or punish civilians. Containing civilian human wrongs is the task of the police. However, the Bangladesh Police, too, needs to be thoroughly reformed. This would require even reconceptualizing the role of the police by not only doing away with the colonial legalisations, which are still valid, but also renaming the police and calling it the Public Security Force. The latter would go a long way in shifting from serving the incumbent government zealously to securing the security of the public.

However, from the perspective of human rights and democratic norms, the most damaging was the democratic backsliding resulting from one-sided and mass rigging in January 2014, December 2018, and January 2024 national elections. In two of these elections (2014 and 2024), the main opposition party did not participate, and, therefore, the elections fell short of being participatory. Interestingly, although held without the main opposition party participating in them, the government, including the Election Commission, could not stop mass rigging, which possibly was done to show a bigger turnout and casting of votes. But this resulted in massive distrust of the ruling party, particularly on the part of the youth, who mainly were first-time voters but could not vote or found their votes already cast. Human rights otherwise got intertwined with democratic elections. The strengthening of the former would require critical reforms of the latter.

The Westminster system of holding national elections and limiting it to the First Past the Post will not work. Bangladesh's electoral system must evolve from historical experience, demographic composition, and political compulsions. In this context, the following three may be considered:

Firstly, the number of parliamentary seats ought to be increased from 300 to 600 to make representation of the voters meaningful. In the 12th Parliamentary Election, the number of voters included 55,325,292 males plus 54,280,542 females plus 353 transgender



Professor Muhammad Yunus addresses the nation after assuming leadership

people, a total of 109,606,187. This implies that each Member of Parliament (MP) represents 365,353 voters, which is impossible for the MP even to shake hands, let alone represent them. Doubling the parliamentary seats will reduce the voter representation to 182,676 per MP. The UK Parliament, for instance, has 427 seats when there are 650 MPs. Historically, the number of seats in the UK Parliament (House of Commons) has risen from 615 in 1922. The number is based on the number of registered voters, between 60,000 to 70,000 for each

MP. This is a relatively ideal number for representation, but one could begin by bringing it down to 182,676 per MP for Bangladesh. The doubling of seats is likely to favour the big parties more than the small ones, as the former would only be in the position of running the election from all 600 seats. This would be difficult for the smaller parties. However, the reform is geared toward shifting the election from a race between political parties to a race between the vote-seekers and the voters, how much the former can attract and work for the latter.



Millions of people have gathered in Dhaka city following the resignation of the dictator Sheikh Hasina

Secondly, a two-tier election system can be introduced, potentially stopping the much-maligned nomination business. One could take lessons from the 12th Parliamentary Election on this. In the face of a major opposition party boycotting the national election, the ruling party, despite formally nominating a person to stand in the election as the party's candidate, allowed other aspirants to seek nomination and participate in the election and did not reprimand them for violating party's decision. However, such multiple candidacies from one party would not have worked under normal circumstances because it would have divided the votes and favoured the candidate from the opposition party if it were to participate and nominate only one candidate. This is where a two-tier election system, like the Turkish or French presidential elections, can make a difference. In the first round, any individual, within or outside a political party, can stand for the election. However, only the first two with the most votes in the first round will be eligible for the second and final rounds.

This certainly has the potential to stop the nomination business. But then, how will political parties fund their activities? Although practiced by all political parties participating in elections, the nomination business remains unlawful and is geared toward displacing genuine politicians with businesspeople or those with loads of money. In the last national election, most candidates had moveable or liquid assets of Taka one crore



Families seeking justice for enforced disappearances, an ongoing issue in Bangladesh

(or 10 million) and more. Moreover, more than 57 percent of the candidates were businesspeople, and only 2.86 percent were politicians by profession! But why so many from the business profession? One answer could be that too many candidates seek nominations from registered political parties against a limited number of seats. Since there is no state allocation of funds for the registered political parties, the nomination business is the quickest and easiest way of raising funds for the party. This is aside from rampant corruption and the reproduction of political-business-bureaucratic nexus. But this time in the 12th Parliamentary Election, almost

as ‘unintended consequences,’ to use a Popperian phrase, multiple candidacies from the same party, particularly the ruling party, allowed independent candidates to seek nomination without handing over a hefty amount, as it is alleged, to the political party. Amid free-floating candidacies in the first round of the national election, state allocation of funds for political parties could be introduced based on the number of parliamentary seats. This would go a long way in transforming the current dismal state of democracy or what can be called plutocracy.

Finally, the time has come for Bangladesh to follow India,

Pakistan, or, for that matter, the UK and the USA and have two legislative Houses. In light of Bangladesh’s experience, this can be called the House of People and the House of Delegates. The former will have members directly elected, as envisaged above. At the same time, the latter will consist of non-partisan members from different professions, selected by the members of the House of People according to the percentage of popular votes. The House of Delegates, apart from confirming legislation passed by the House of People, will be in charge of the government during national elections. There can be other models as well, but the core thrust of the reforms must be to deepen the representation of the people and overcome the follies of the system of winners-take-all. Human rights and democratic norms, if they were to be ensured, require not only a commitment from the state machinery and the three branches of government, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary, but also the creation of newer institutions. Let us keep our dreams alive for a tolerant, humane people’s republic!

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed
Executive Director
Centre for Alternatives &
Advisor, Diplomats World



South Bangla Holdings Ltd.
স্বপ্নের শুরু এখানেই

ঢাকা মাওয়া (নিমতলা বাসস্ট্যান্ড) সংলগ্ন

বসিলা থেকে মাত্র ১৫ মিঃ দূরত্বে

নাগরিক সকল সুযোগ সুবিধা সম্বলিত (ক্লাব হাউস,
কনভেনশন সেন্টার ও স্পোর্টস কমপ্লেক্স)

South Bangla Holdings Ltd.

যোগাযোগ করুনঃ

01862143847 | 01733685622 | 01873964064
01788888821 | 01747584764

ঠিকানা:

House: 25, (Level-10), Road- 11, Block- H, (BFC Building)
Banani, Dhaka -1213



TÜRKİYE BANGLADESH 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations

MUTUAL SOLIDARITY AND GROWTH: TÜRKİYE-BANGLADESH RELATIONS IN FOCUS AS TÜRKİYE CELEBRATES 101 YEARS

H.E. Ramis Şen

On 29th of October 2024, we will celebrate with great honour and pride the 101th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye.

At the outset, I would like to express our gratitude and respect to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, his comrades-in-arms and our people who lost their lives during the Turkish War of Independence.

The Republic of Türkiye and the People's Republic of

Bangladesh have strong and deep-rooted relations. In the



Meet and Greet with the Diplomatic Corps in Bangladesh by H.E. Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

aftermath of the latest political developments in Bangladesh, we are working in close cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh led by Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus.

On 22nd of February this year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Bangladesh.

As a symbol of enduring friendship, the Turkish naval ship "TCG Kınalıada" paid a port visit to



Celebration of National Sovereignty and Children's Day on 23 April



General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Chief of Army Staff, Chief Guest at the Reception on the occasion of Victory Day of the Republic of Türkiye, at the Embassy on August 30



Dinner hosted by Mr. Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye in Chittagong

Chittagong on 7-9 May 2024 to mark this historic anniversary. As two brotherly countries, we always stand in solidarity with each other in difficult times.

Last year, Türkiye experienced a devastating earthquake. Bangladesh was in solidarity with us.

In the aftermath of the floods in Bangladesh this year, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye had a phone conversation with H.E. Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and expressed our solidarity and support during this difficult time.

Following the phone conversation, officials from relevant authorities of Türkiye visited Bangladesh and delivered humanitarian assistance in different cities affected by the flood.

In line with our vision of Century of Türkiye, we are aiming to become one of the top ten economies of the world and we have been developing and diversifying our economic and commercial relations at global level.

The Republic of Türkiye, with its growing economy, strong democracy, its commitment to fundamental human values, and with its visionary foreign policy, stands among the rising powers of the world.

The Republic of Türkiye is a member of G-20 and has an



Celebration of National Sovereignty and Children's Day on 23 April

annual trade volume over 600 Billion USD. Furthermore, we have the fifth largest diplomatic representation in the world.

Türkiye and Bangladesh have close cooperation in many fields including economy, trade, defense industry, education, culture and development cooperation.

The existing bilateral trade volume between Türkiye and Bangladesh is around 1,1 billion USD and we are working in close cooperation with the authorities of Bangladesh to increase our bilateral trade volume.

Mutual visits between business communities as well as participation to trade fairs in both countries are crucial to enhance economic and trade relations further. We are pleased that there are

important Turkish investments in Bangladesh.

Turkish defense industry has made great progress in recent years and we are proud that Turkish defense industry companies are producing world class products. There has been an increasing cooperation between our

relevant authorities in this field.

People to people contacts have also been increasing in recent years thanks to direct flights of Turkish Airlines between our countries. Türkiye, with its rich history and culture, has become one of the top destinations for Bangladeshi citizens for tourism. It should also be pointed out that Turkish TV series has become very popular among the Bangladeshi people, like in other parts of the world. These developments have made important contribution in strengthening people to people ties.

Since the beginning of the Rohingya crisis in 2017, Turkish authorities together with Turkish NGOs have been present on the ground and providing humanitarian assistance to Rohingyas in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh.



Welcome Ceremony for Turkish Navy Ship "TCG Kınalıada" at the Chittagong Port



Reception hosted by Bangladesh Navy on the occasion of the port visit of “TCG Kınalıada” in Chittagong

Turkish Field Hospital within Rohingya camps has been providing essential health services to Rohingyas and host communities since 2018. At the hospital, 25 Turkish medical staff together with 50 local staff are providing medical services

to approximately one thousand people every day. Furthermore, Türkiye has been in close solidarity with Bangladesh not only at the bilateral level but also at international platforms on this issue.

In conclusion, the Republic of Türkiye and the People’s Republic of Bangladesh have deep rooted friendly relations and we are committed to further enhance and diversify our bilateral relations in all fields.

H.E. Ramis Şen
Ambassador
Republic of Türkiye to Bangladesh

NEPAL EMBASSY IN DHAKA CELEBRATES NATIONAL AND CONSTITUTION DAY

On September 20, 2024, the Nepal Embassy in Dhaka hosted a reception to celebrate Nepal's National and Constitution Day. Ambassador H.E. Ghanshyam Bhandari highlighted the significance of the 2015 democratic Constitution and the enduring spirit of the Nepali people. He emphasized the potential for stronger cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh in boosting connectivity and economic growth.

Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Md. Fouzul Kabir Khan praised the growing bilateral ties, urging enhanced cooperation in trade, energy, and connectivity. The event included Nepali folk-dance performances and was attended by over 350 distinguished guests.





DIVERSIFYING BANGLADESH'S EXPORT BASKET: A TIMELY STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH

Prof. Dr. Aynul Hoque

Bangladesh has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies in South Asia, with a GDP reaching USD 446 billion in 2023. Much of this economic expansion can be attributed to the ready-made garment (RMG) sector, which dominates the country's export landscape, accounting for over 85% of export earnings. However, this heavy reliance on a single sector has exposed Bangladesh to significant economic vulnerabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated some foreseeable risks that may severely disrupt the RMG industry and urge a need for a more diversified economic strategy. Therefore, to enhance

economic resilience, Bangladesh must diversify its export base.

To build a more resilient and sustainable economy, Bangladesh must embark on a comprehensive strategy to diversify its export base. This approach not only aims to reduce dependence on the RMG sector but also to foster long-term economic stability and growth. The following sections delve into the reasons behind the need for diversification, examine lessons from other economies, and outline actionable strategies for Bangladesh to achieve a more diversified and robust export portfolio.

The Critical Need for Export Diversification

Economic Vulnerability: Bangladesh's economy is heavily dependent on RMG exports, which makes it vulnerable to sector-specific risks and global market fluctuations. The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on RMG exports underscored the limitations of relying on a single industry for economic growth. Diversification is crucial to mitigate such risks and ensure a stable economy.

Stagnation Risks: A concentrated export basket can lead to economic stagnation. When a country relies predominantly on a few products or sectors, it risks



Bangladesh's reliance on the ready-made garment (RMG) sector highlights the urgent need for economic diversification

missing out on growth opportunities in other areas.

Dynamic Growth Potential: Diversification introduces new products and markets, which can stimulate innovation, create job opportunities, and boost economic growth. By expanding its export portfolio, Bangladesh can develop new industries and enhance its overall economic dynamism.

Lessons from Global Success Stories

India: India's experience offers valuable insights into successful

export diversification. The country's export sector has expanded to include a wide array of products, such as engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, and electronics. This diversification has helped India reduce its dependence on any single sector and achieve consistent export growth. By focusing on various industries, India has managed to capture a significant share of global markets and maintain economic stability.

Vietnam: Vietnam's success in diversifying its exports is

notable. The country has expanded beyond textiles to include electronics, machinery, footwear, and agricultural products. This strategy has allowed Vietnam to enhance its competitive edge and increase its market share, particularly in the U.S. and European markets. Vietnam's approach demonstrates the benefits of broadening the export base and targeting high-value products.

Malaysia: Malaysia's strategy of focusing on high-tech and value-added products, such as electronics and petrochemicals, has positioned it as a key player in global markets. The country's emphasis on innovation and technology has strengthened its export sector and contributed to its economic resilience.

Strategic Recommendations for Bangladesh

Expanding Product Range: Besides apparel exports, Bangladesh's economy should focus on exploring markets for other products and services that have promising potential to create employment and increase foreign currency earnings.

Pharmaceutical Industry: Bangladesh has a growing pharmaceutical sector with the potential to capture a larger share of the global healthcare market. Investment in advanced manufacturing and research can enhance the sector's competitiveness.

Electronics and IT Products: Developing a technology-driven export sector can provide new revenue streams. Focus areas include microchips, smartphones, and IT services.



Investing in Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector offers significant potential for export diversification and global market expansion



Developing a tech-driven export sector, including electronics and IT products, can provide new revenue streams for Bangladesh

Machinery and Equipment: Expanding into light engineering products and machinery can cater to global industrial needs and diversify the export base.

High-Value Agriculture Products: Increasing exports of processed foods, horticulture products, and agro-fisheries high-value goods can open new market opportunities in Asia and Europe.

Exploring New Markets

Emerging Markets: Targeting high-growth regions such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America can reduce reliance on traditional markets and tap into new opportunities.

Strengthening Trade Relations: Negotiating free and favorable trade agreements and reducing trade barriers with new destinations such as Middle Eastern and African markets and existing partners like the USA and EU can facilitate market entry and expansions.

Enhancing Infrastructure: Bangladesh can attract foreign

investments and facilitate exports by investing in infrastructural developments like transportation, energy, and digital technologies.

Transportation: Upgrading railways and introducing modern port facilities, and logistics systems can be more efficient and effective for export operations. Improved infrastructure can reduce lead times and increase competitiveness.



Enhanced transportation and logistics infrastructure are key to supporting diversified export operations in Bangladesh

Energy: Ensuring no—power cuts and an affordable energy supply is crucial for supporting industrial activities and attracting foreign and domestic investments.

Industry 4.0 and Digital Technologies: The developed world is leaning towards tapping the opportunities and benefits of industry 4.0 technologies for much easier industrial operations and better innovations. So, investing in digital infrastructure and industry 4.0 technologies can enhance trade efficiency and support the growth of new export sectors. Bangladesh must adopt policies regarding financing and adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies as soon as possible.

Investing in Human Capital: The human resource is the most important in any nation. That's why, Bangladesh must invest in developing human resources that will turn into human capital. Introducing Industry 4.0 and digital technologies at tertiary education and vocational training programs will equip the workforce with the skills needed



Equipping the workforce with skills in Industry 4.0 technologies and digital literacy is crucial for competing in global markets

for competing in globally competitive markets and segments. Moreover, Research and Development financing, competition, and fostering such an ecosystem will drive innovation and the development of new export products and services.

Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): Bangladesh has to formulate and implement policies that attract foreign investors by providing better growth and profit potentials such as tax holidays, incentives, and investment protection, which can bolster diversification efforts. We can offer special attractive packages to invest in electronics, pharmaceutical research-based products, and digital and Industry 4.0

technology businesses that will help Bangladesh to be ready to embrace high-tech industries. It will enhance export diversification and a resilient economy. Additionally, encouraging collaboration between the public and private sectors can drive investment and growth in new industries.

Knowledge Economy: According to UNDP, Bangladesh's position is very poor in the Global Knowledge Index (GKI). We have to move forward by adopting proper policies such as more vocational education, higher quality in secondary and tertiary education systems, and implementation of digital systems in government governance and industries. We have to invest more in research

and development to prepare the economy and systems for smart digitalization and automation. Usage of digital and automation systems in agriculture, the apparel industry, leather goods, the pharmaceutical industry, and railway and sea-ports management can significantly help to rank up in GKI.

Conclusion

Export diversification emerges as a critical strategy for ensuring sustained economic growth and resilience. Expanding beyond the RMG sector will not only stabilize the economy but also create new opportunities for growth and development. By adopting a comprehensive strategy that includes broadening the product range, exploring new markets, enhancing infrastructure, reforming policies, investing in human capital, attracting FDI, and building knowledge economy focusing on digital technologies, Bangladesh can build a more robust and dynamic economy. Export diversification represents a pathway to achieving long-term economic stability and growth, positioning Bangladesh to thrive in a rapidly changing global marketplace. With proactive measures and strategic investments, Bangladesh can secure a prosperous future, characterized by a diverse and resilient economic landscape.

Prof. Dr. Aynul Hoque
Assistant Editor
Diplomats World



Desh General
Insurance Company Limited

HELPING YOU TO PLAN FOR TOMORROW



Fire Insurance



Marine Insurance



Motor Insurance



Miscellaneous Insurance



Engineering Insurance

Jiban Bima Bhaban, Front Block, Level-5, 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Phone: 88-02-223390997-9, E-mail: info@deskinsurancebd.com

Web: www.deskinsurancebd.com



ELEVATING NEPAL-BANGLADESH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: PAVING THE WAY FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND SHARED PROSPERITY

H.E. Ghanshyam Bhandari

Those of you familiar with Nepal's history may know that we are one of the oldest nations not only in South Asia but also in the world. We have always remained an independent country.

But this national day tells a recent story. It commemorates the historic promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal in 2015 by the Constituent Assembly, a body of elected representatives.

This day is a testimony to Nepali people's ability to

resolve political issues and challenges on their own.

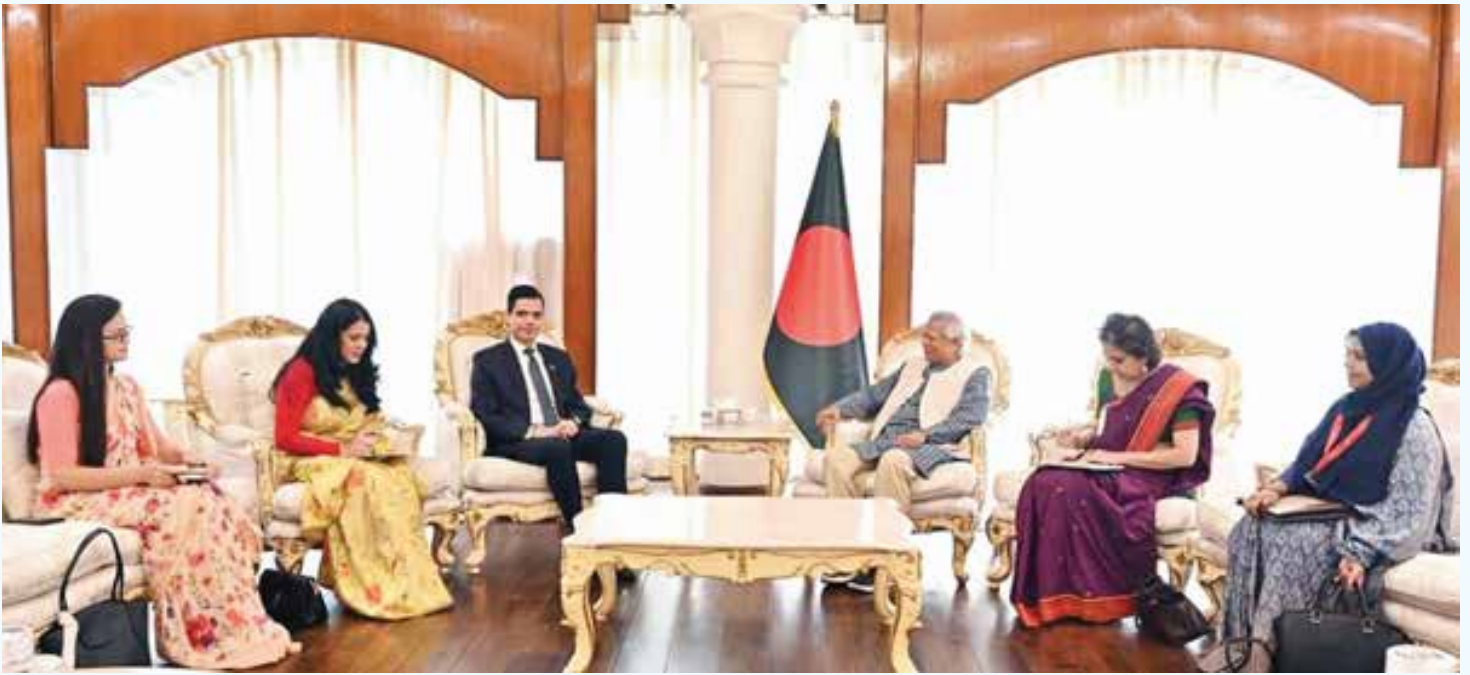
The day celebrates Nepali spirit of patriotism, democracy, and diversity, underpinned by the principles of equality, social inclusion, justice, and proportional representation that remain at the core of our Constitution.

Now, we are a vibrant and inclusive democracy. However, it is far from perfect. We know it takes hard work, strengthened rule of law, and strong institutions to build a better democracy.

And, as we observe this day, we make a renewed commitment to the most meaningful actions possible towards this direction.

It was exactly along these lines, in this year's national day message addressed to Nepali people, President Rt. Hon. Mr. Ram Chandra Paudel stated that:

"We should understand that changes in the political system and governance structure alone will not fulfill the expectations of a new era. It is necessary to bring about changes in the



Ambassador H.E. Ghanshyam Bhandari with Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, H.E. Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, during a diplomatic meeting

character of the State, backed by political integrity, ethics, and values.”

Nepal-Bangladesh relationship is one of those neighborly relations based on the shared cultures and traditions, and having immense promises and potentials of cooperation.

There are some important drivers of our dynamic relationship. First, our bonds of true neighborliness are nurtured by tremendous goodwill and solidarity.

This runs right from the top political leadership to the grassroots level.

Over the year years, we have developed a similar vision and agenda for development.

We have always stood with each other in times of need, including during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. We also relate to each other in terms of our opportunities and challenges.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that, as Bangladesh navigates through the current transitional period, Nepal stands in solidarity with the government and people of Bangladesh and remains committed to extending all possible support and cooperation as a friendly neighbour.

Second is the driver of economic partnership. We must acknowledge that the level of economic engagements between our two countries is currently at a modest level.



On the occasion of Republic Day of Nepal, the Ambassador proudly raises the national flag of Nepal during the ceremonial function



Majestic view of the towering Himalayan mountains in Nepal, home to some of the highest peaks in the world, including Mount Everest

But we are on the cusp of realizing the first-ever power trade between our two countries. A tripartite deal on the export of 40 MW of hydroelectricity from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian transmission lines is expected to be signed sometime soon.

It may be small in volume, but it is of immense significance. This will be a much-needed springboard for further energy cooperation at the sub-regional level.

But given the closeness and proximity between our two countries, what we have achieved is nowhere close to the potential.

There is a need to further ramp up our efforts to enhance trade linkages, including by eliminating or reducing the other duties and charges (ODCs).

We must also be aware of the clarion call to intensify our

engagements- be it in terms of trade, investment, transit or connectivity.

Thirdly, civilizational connections and people to people contacts have remained as a beating heart of our bilateral relationship.

Interactions between our societies and cultures date

centuries back. This is evident through the historical accounts of travel of Buddhist scholar Atish Dipankar in the 11th century, in the finding of the palm-leaf manuscript of the Charyapada at the Royal Court of Nepal in the early 20th century, and in Sanskrit being the root of both Nepali and Bangla languages, and the list goes on.

Currently, over 36 thousand Bangladeshi people visit Nepal every year. Also, close to 3000 Nepali students are pursuing higher education in Bangladesh, especially in the medical field. Our students, mountaineers, trekkers, and visitors from both ends are our real cultural ambassadors. And our efforts to consolidate the cultural links and people-to-people contacts continue to gather more strength.

Last but not least, we work closely to advance our common interests in regional and international forums, such as



Changu Narayan is an ancient Hindu temple, located on a high hilltop that is also known as Changu or Dolagiri in Changu Narayan Municipality of Bhaktapur District, Nepal



The Annapurna Base Camp Trek offers stunning views of the Annapurna range, Machapuchare, and other Himalayan peaks right from the start

SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN, United Nations, Non-aligned Movement, and Group of 77 and China.

Currently, as the first two largest troops and police contributing countries, Nepal and Bangladesh

contribute to global peace and security through UN peace operations.

We are both graduating from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category in 2026.



Majestic mountain landscapes and lush valleys highlight the natural beauty of Nepal, where serene lakes, towering peaks, and vibrant greenery captivate the soul

Graduation is an important development milestone for both of our countries. So, we continue to share our experiences and lessons learned, and work together for a smooth, sustainable, and irreversible graduation.

Our close engagements around issues such as SDGs, climate change, LDCs matters, south-south cooperation, and the digital divide are also on the rise.

Not least in light of these promises and potentials of our relationship, most of our conversation is not about what we could not do, but about what we can and should do next.

And we are ever effortful to leverage the transformative power of our solidarity and cooperation to catapult development and economic prosperity for millions of our people.

নেপাল ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে সহযোগিতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। কিন্তু হিমালয় ও বঙ্গোপসাগর এবং পাহাড় ও সমতল ভূমিকে আরো সংযুক্ত করার জন্য অনেক কিছু করতে হবে।

এই লক্ষ্য পূরণে আপনাদের মতো মানুষদের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রয়েছে।

এই উপলক্ষ্যে নেপাল এবং নেপালী জনগনের প্রতি আপনাদের অবিচ্ছিন্ন বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ ভালবাসা এবং শুভেচ্ছার জন্য আমি আপনাদের সবাইকে আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

H.E. Ghanshyam Bhandari
Ambassador
Nepal to Bangladesh

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.





ROUNDTABLE SEMINAR ON DYNAMICS OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORS IN THE POST-BANGLADESH STUDENT REVOLUTION UNDER THE CURRENT REGIONAL GEOPOLITICAL CONDITIONS

Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD

A significant roundtable conference was held on September 19, 2024, organized by Diplomats World at their auditorium in Dhaka, under the theme "Dynamics of Relationships with Neighbors in the Post-Bangladesh Student Revolution under the Current Regional Geopolitical Conditions." The conference witnessed the gathering of diplomats, scholars, security experts, and policymakers to discuss the new geopolitical landscape following the historic student-led revolution that

reshaped the country's political structure earlier in the year.



Dr. Mohammed Faruque

The roundtable began with a welcome speech from Dr. Mohammed Faruque, who acknowledged the importance of the event as a platform for insightful discussion on Bangladesh's evolving relationships with neighboring countries. Addressing the audience, he emphasized the

critical role that geopolitical positioning plays for Bangladesh in the current global framework. "Bangladesh has always upheld the principle of peaceful coexistence, with the motto 'Friends to all, enmity to none.' Post-revolution, the interim government, led by Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, is committed to fostering peaceful relations with all nations, prioritizing mutual socio-economic interests." He highlighted the crucial role of Bangladesh as a strategic connector in East-West

connectivity, and the vital relationships the country shares with regional powers like India and China.



Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

**Keynote
Speech by Dr.
Mahfuz
Parvez**

The keynote speaker, Dr. Mahfuz Parvez, set the

tone for the event by outlining the evolving regional dynamics that will shape Bangladesh's foreign relations post-revolution. He discussed the significance of maintaining a balanced relationship with regional powers, particularly China and India, and emphasized the need for strategic alliances without compromising sovereignty. "The revolution has reshaped Bangladesh's political landscape, and now it is essential for the interim government to navigate the geopolitical intricacies with caution," he remarked.

Dr. Parvez also addressed the shift in global power balances and how Bangladesh must tactfully approach its relationships with both established powers like the US and rising powers like China, particularly as both countries seek influence in South Asia. His speech underscored the importance of Bangladesh's participation in regional initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while being cautious about the Indo-Pacific strategy spearheaded by the United States. "Bangladesh must avoid getting entangled in any superpower rivalry and should strive for a multilateral approach in its foreign policy," he concluded.



Ms. Sharmeen
Murshid

**Chief Guest:
Ms. Sharmeen
Murshid,
Honourable
Advisor,
Government of
Bangladesh**
Ms. Sharmeen Murshid, the

chief guest, shared her insights on Bangladesh's political transition after the student revolution. She emphasized the importance of aligning domestic stability with foreign policy goals. "In the wake of the revolution, our primary focus is rebuilding the nation's institutions and ensuring that the principles of democracy are restored," she said. Referring to Bangladesh's neighbors, she added, "Our relations with our neighbors must reflect equality and mutual respect. Bangladesh will no longer tolerate unequal treatment, whether it comes from India, China, or any other regional power."

Ms. Murshid also highlighted the pressing need to address long-standing issues such as water-sharing disputes, particularly with India. "The Teesta River issue has remained unresolved for too long. We must seek a comprehensive and fair solution that benefits both nations," she stated. In addition, she reiterated the interim government's stance of prioritizing peaceful coexistence and open dialogue in all regional matters, ensuring that Bangladesh is not caught up in the geopolitical tension between its neighbors.



Lt. Gen. (Retd)
Mohammad
Mahfuzur Rahman

**Moderator: Lt.
Gen. (Retd)
Mohammad
Mahfuzur
Rahman**
Bangladesh's geopolitical position, particularly its

significance in the Bay of Bengal, which is crucial for both regional and global dynamics.

"Bangladesh is at the apex of the Bay of Bengal, and its geographic location limits India's strategic movements through what is known as the 'Chicken Neck,'" he noted. This positioning makes Bangladesh a key player, not just in regional cooperation but also in the growing contest over resources like water from the Brahmaputra and Tista rivers, which involve both India and China.

He emphasized the pressures Bangladesh faces from the U.S. for defense agreements like GSOMIA and ACSA. He explained how the country is navigating a complex balance between the Indo-Pacific Alliance and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "We've opted for a middle ground, supporting an inclusive Bay of Bengal while balancing relationships with major global powers," Rahman stated, underscoring the importance of diplomacy in maintaining national sovereignty.

He also discussed Myanmar's geopolitical relevance, particularly the strategic importance of the hill tribes bordering India and China. "The Chittagong Hill Tracts could easily get entangled in broader geopolitical conflicts, with external forces eyeing the

region's resources," Rahman warned, pointing to the increasing influence of both India and China in Myanmar's internal dynamics.

Focusing on India's troubled relationships with its neighbors, he observed that Bangladesh had previously enjoyed a strong alliance under Sheikh Hasina's government. "However, anti-Indian sentiment among Bangladeshis was at an all-time high prior to the July Revolution," he said, likening India's concerns about Bangladesh to its earlier anxiety over the Maldives. He mentioned India's strategic investments in Afghanistan, which proved ineffective after the Taliban takeover, adding that the fall of the Hasina government has similarly left India in a state of "shock and awe."

"India's nervousness is palpable, but it will take time for the country to recalibrate and approach Bangladesh on equal footing," Rahman asserted, noting that India would need to rethink its strategies with the new administration in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Interim Government could form natural alliances with the NUG and the Arakan Army, especially regarding the Rohingya crisis. "It is essential to recognize that resolving the Rohingya issue will now likely involve negotiating with the Arakan Army and the NUG, not just the military junta," he emphasized, suggesting that Dhaka may need to reassess its approach to Myanmar's internal stakeholders.



Ambassador
Shahed Akter

Ambassador Shahed Akter's Perspective
Ambassador Shahed Akter, former Secretary of the Government of

Bangladesh and Editor of *Diplomats World*, expanded on Bangladesh's relations with India. "Historically, we've shared both friendly and contentious moments with India," he stated. However, he pointed out that the post-revolution scenario offers a unique opportunity for Bangladesh to redefine its relationship with its powerful neighbor on more equitable terms. "India has been our ally, but the anti-India sentiment has grown in recent years due to unresolved issues. We need to address these concerns head-on to avoid future tensions," Akter asserted.

He also touched on the evolving geopolitical situation in Myanmar, particularly in light of the military junta's weakening hold over its territory. "With the rise of the Arakan Army in Rakhine State and their de facto control of the area, Bangladesh must rethink its strategy in dealing with Myanmar, especially concerning the Rohingya crisis," he remarked.



Major General Md
Shahidul Haque (Retd)

Major General Md Shahidul Haque, (Retd) on Security Implications
Major General Shahidul Haque (Retd) provided

a military perspective on the issue, emphasizing that Bangladesh must enhance its defense capabilities while maintaining a peaceful stance in the region. "A credible deterrence force is crucial for ensuring sovereignty in these volatile times," he said. He also stressed that while Bangladesh should not seek confrontation, it must be prepared to safeguard its national interests, particularly in the Bay of Bengal, where resources and strategic interests are at play.



Professor
Shahiduzzaman

Professor Shahiduzzaman's Analysis
Professor Shahiduzzaman offered an academic perspective, delving into the

historical context of Bangladesh's foreign relations. "Bangladesh has always been a key player in regional geopolitics, even if it hasn't always realized its potential. The revolution gives us a chance to reassess our position and influence in South Asia," he said. He also pointed out the importance of education and knowledge diplomacy as tools to enhance Bangladesh's international standing.



Ambassador
M. Humayun Kabir

Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir: Diplomatic Insight
Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir focused on the

diplomatic implications of the

revolution. “Diplomacy, post-revolution, must be centered on mutual respect and sovereignty. Bangladesh cannot afford to be swayed by any external powers that do not prioritize our national interests,” he stated. He also urged the government to strengthen ties with countries like the US, which have historically played a crucial role in Bangladesh’s economic development, particularly in sectors like garments and technology.



Ambassador Mahbub Uz Zaman

Ambassador Mahbub Uz Zaman on Strategic Alignments
Ambassador Mahbub Uz Zaman

highlighted the importance of maintaining strategic alliances without compromising Bangladesh’s autonomy. “Our relations with China and India are crucial, but we must ensure that these relationships are balanced,” he said. “Bangladesh should engage with the Indo-Pacific strategy cautiously, ensuring that our national interests are always protected,” he added.



IGP (Retd) Nurul Huda

IGP (Retd) Nurul Huda
IGP (Retd) Nurul Huda emphasized that internal security is the foundation of effective foreign

relations. “A stable domestic environment allows us to engage confidently with our neighbors,” he said. He stressed the need for law enforcement to adapt to

evolving threats, especially in the current geopolitical context. “Our internal peace is essential for projecting strength and stability abroad,” he concluded, advocating for collaboration between law enforcement and diplomats to safeguard Bangladesh’s regional interests.



Major General (Retd) Jahangir Talukder

Major General (Retd) Jahangir Talukder
Major General (Retd) Jahangir Talukder highlighted the military's role in

maintaining Bangladesh's sovereignty amidst regional complexities. “We must focus on strategic autonomy and avoid over-reliance on any one power,” he said. Alam emphasized the growing importance of the Bay of Bengal in regional geopolitics, urging investment in modernizing the navy. “Our military must be ready not only to defend but to support a foreign policy that ensures Bangladesh’s sovereignty and regional standing,” he concluded.



Major General Nayeem Ashfaq Chowdhury (Retd)

Major General Md Nayeem Ashfaq Chowdhury's, (Retd) Strategic Outlook
Major General Nayeem

Ashfaq Chowdhury (Retd) discussed Bangladesh’s strategic importance in the Bay of Bengal and beyond. “We are not just a small country; we hold significant strategic value in the global arena, particularly in maritime security and resource allocation in the Bay

of Bengal,” he remarked. He stressed that Bangladesh must continue to assert its rights in regional and international waters.



Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Aminul Karim

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Aminul Karim's Conclusion

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Aminul Karim stressed that Bangladesh’s foreign and

defense policies must always prioritize national interests. In the current geopolitical landscape, balancing relations with key regional powers, China and India, is essential, and this must be done with subtlety and caution. “While we must navigate carefully, our firmness in safeguarding national interests should never be compromised,” he noted. Karim pointed to the strategy of hedging—diversifying relationships without fully aligning with any one nation—as the most effective approach, while cautioning against bandwagoning or over-reliance on any singular power.

To strengthen its deterrence capabilities, Bangladesh must increase its comprehensive national power, which includes economic growth, military capabilities, technological advancements, education, public health, and a combination of hard and soft power. “Smart power—the fusion of hard and soft power—should be used strategically to yield the best results for the nation,” Karim emphasized.

He further warned against compromising the principle of

sovereign equality, stressing that peaceful coexistence must guide Bangladesh's international relations. "Our country is viewed as a strategic space by both India and China, which necessitates constant vigilance," he stated, underscoring the geopolitical significance of regions like the Bay of Bengal, Myanmar, Northeast India, and the Malacca Strait.

Karim advised Bangladesh to avoid any formal alliance-building that could restrict its foreign policy options. Instead, he called for thoughtful engagement with the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific strategy, ensuring that Bangladesh's national interests remain central. He also pointed to the importance of staying vigilant regarding regional initiatives like India's Act East Policy, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the U.S. Burma Act, all of which have significant implications for Bangladesh.

Finally, Karim advocated for strengthening ties with ASEAN

and revitalizing regional forums like SAARC. "Engaging with these regional bodies will bolster our diplomatic standing and allow us to navigate the complexities of regional geopolitics while keeping national interests at the core," he concluded.



Prof. Fahd Bin Zahed

Closing Remarks by Prof. Fahd Bin Zahed

In his closing remarks, Prof. Fahd Bin Zahed emphasized

the need for a reevaluation of Bangladesh's foreign policy in light of recent changes. "We must move beyond past misunderstandings with countries like the US and focus on forging stronger, more balanced relationships that serve our national interest," he said. He also called for greater collaboration with regional organizations like SAARC and ASEAN.



Ms. Mansura Amdad

Final Thoughts by Ms. Mansura Amdad

Ms. Mansura Amdad, a lecturer in International Relations at the

University of Dhaka, concluded by underscoring the importance of education and societal reforms in shaping Bangladesh's foreign policy. "A strong, educated populace is the backbone of any successful foreign policy. We must focus on strengthening our educational infrastructure to ensure that we are prepared to face the global challenges ahead," she stated.

The roundtable ended with a consensus that Bangladesh must approach its foreign relations with pragmatism, diplomacy, and a strong focus on national interest. As the nation continues to navigate the post-revolution era, its relationships with neighboring countries will remain critical in determining its future trajectory.

Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad MahfuzurRahman, PhD

Former Principal Staff Officer
Armed Forces Division
and Advisor, Diplomats World

CHINA CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN BANGLADESH WITH GRAND RECEPTION

On September 25, 2024, the Embassy of China in Bangladesh hosted a prestigious reception in Dhaka, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. H.E. Mr. Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh, delivered a powerful keynote address, highlighting the historic ties and deepening cooperation between the two nations.

The event's chief guest, H.E. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh for the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Science and Technology, praised the growing partnership between Bangladesh and China. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration across various sectors, including trade, technology, and infrastructure development.

More than 2,000 distinguished guests attended the reception, including heads of government agencies, representatives of the military and political parties, diplomatic mission leaders, international organizations, Chinese company representatives, and members of Bangladesh's prominent media houses and think tanks. The event underscored the long-standing friendship between Bangladesh and China and their shared vision for the future.





IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE UN TO PROTECT THE ROHINGYA

Dr. Hla Myint

Bangladesh has set an exceptional passion by accepting and providing shelter to the helpless Rohingya victims of genocide. It has done so notwithstanding being a poor country. Bangladesh government has firmly stated that local integration of Rohingyas is not an option, a view mainly shared by its general public. Such a policy, if ever considered, will likely be a political suicide against the national interests of the Rohingyas. This is because solutions other than voluntary return would not the international community to be

complicit in fulfilling the long-term Burmese agenda of depopulating Arakan of the Rohingyas.

If local integration and resettlement is not a practical proposition what chance should lie for the Rohingyas?

Bangladesh is not in a position to accommodate more than a million Rohingya people for an indefinite period. Currently, due to global instability, there is always a chance of eruption of new humanitarian crises and hence no assurance that the international community will

adhere to its commitment to support the Rohingya refugees for endless period. All these lead us to think of a creative and practical durable solution to address the issue. The only viable and feasible solution for the Plight of Rohingya is to provide them a safe haven in their native homeland in Northern Arakan via invoking the Responsibility to Protect (R2P or RtoP) doctrine.

The principal of safe heaven via (R2P or RtoP) doctrine is the demarcation of northern Arakan as the Rohingya Homeland, the ancestral home



Despite limited resources, Bangladesh has provided refuge to over a million Rohingya victims of genocide

of the Rohingya, protected by international forces and ensuring the return of 1 million Rohingyas from Bangladesh and other members of Rohingya diaspora who fled what many noble laureates termed as 'genocide', to Arakan permanently or on temporary basis to rebuild their homeland through UN administrated zone like Kosovo.

The homeland for Rohingya is rooted in the Burmese official documents including the Encyclopedia which defined officially Northern Arakan State (of Mayu Frontier area) as Rohingya homeland (1964) and Myanmar Ministry of Defence's highest leadership spelled this out in July 1961.

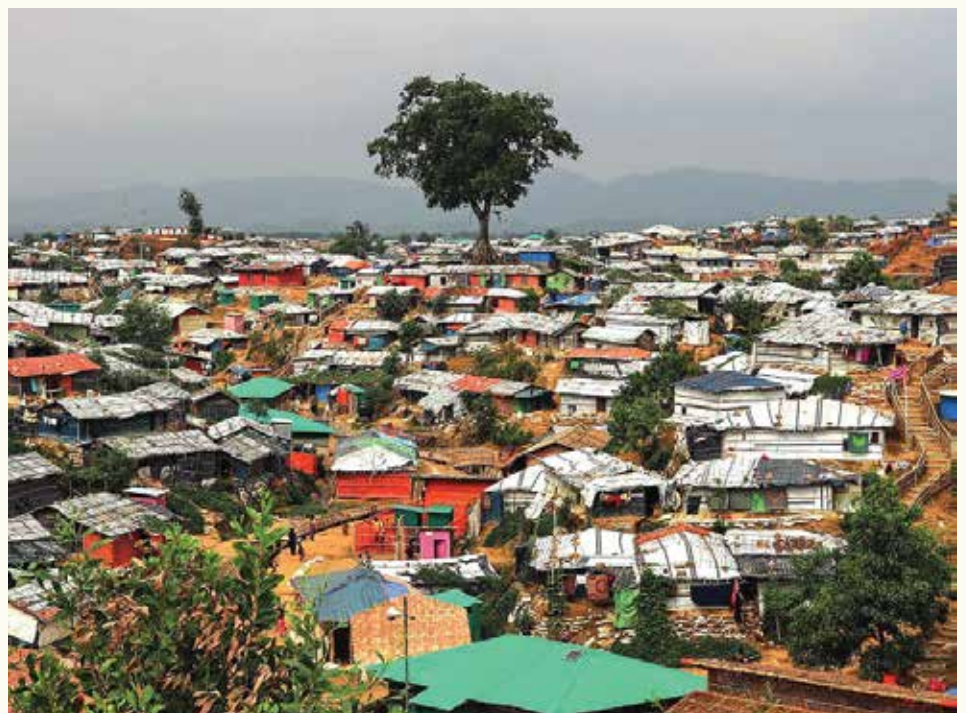
It is high time for the international community to go beyond appeasing the murderous regime and robustly implement the R2P doctrine for safe haven and homeland plan for the Rohingyas. This is

possibly the only practicable and legitimate durable solution to save them from the destructive genocidal Burmese politico-military formation and to prevent unwelcome consequences that this prolonged refugee situation may generate not only for

Bangladesh, but for the region as a whole, with wider consequences for the global community.

It is absolutely critical for the Security Council to see the crisis in Rakhine State and the challenges facing Rohingya refugees objectively. One of the main reasons for the swift UN action is the continuing, disheartening response from the Burmese government. Judging from the reaction of the government and the Burmese military, it seems like they have failed to acknowledge their role in this crisis. This is unacceptable and unsustainable if we're going to make any progress in ending the violence in Rakhine State.

We are thankful to the Government of Bangladesh for everything it has done to support the Rohingya refugee population and its willingness



Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded camps as Bangladesh reiterates that local integration is not a long-term solution



Rohingya Homeland in Peril, calls for invoking the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine to create a safe haven in Northern Arakan for the displaced Rohingya

to work with the UN agencies to meet their needs. International support for humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Bangladesh is more critical now than ever before. The International Community must continue to support them.

More than that, the UNSC must have the will as a Council to do something now. Time is not on our side. The monsoon season has already begun and is putting hundreds of thousands of refugees at further risk. UNSC must continue to work with Bangladesh and UN agencies to ensure the refugees have what they need as the rain begins to fall, flooding the land beneath their feet, and eroding the hills in which they shelter. We cannot allow these refugees to remain in unsafe or unhealthy conditions.

Justice is an essential precondition for the voluntary return of refugees. It is important for Burma to cooperate with credible,

independent investigations into reports of atrocities. There needs to be accountability for the perpetrators, including those in the security services. Impunity cannot continue to be the order of the day. The ultimate solution does not lie in Bangladesh. It is for the refugees to return to their homes and their own land.

The Security Council must remain focused on creating the

conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return of the Rohingya and all displaced communities to their places of origin in Burma via invoking the R2P doctrine.

As part of this effort, the Burmese government should allow access to the UN Fact-Finding Mission and restore access for the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Burma. Burma must also demonstrate respect for the fundamental human rights of Rohingya, including respecting their freedom of movement and their freedom of religion. They must address the conditions that are causing people to continue to flee Rakhine State. Burma needs to do more to address the root causes of the crisis by comprehensively changing its persecutory policies towards the Rohingya, including those related to citizenship. Burma also needs to recognize the scope of the physical and logistical challenges involved in creating the proper conditions for safe, dignified, voluntary, and



The UN Security Council urged to take robust action under the R2P doctrine to ensure a sustainable solution for the Rohingya crisis



Rohingya refugees scramble for aid at a camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
REUTERS/Cathal McNaughton

sustainable returns for more than one million refugees otherwise it should allow UN peace keeping forces to intervene via invoking R2P doctrine.

A democratic, pluralistic government that protects the rights of all minority communities, including the Rohingya, is the only sustainable solution. The Burmese government should provide

immediate and unhindered access to Rakhine State for media as well, and provide for the protection of press freedoms, including the safety of journalists.

The active involvement of the Security Council is essential to bring an end to the Rohingya crisis. Security Council need to act now and cannot allow politics and short-term

economic interests to keep it from doing what is right. Security Council has unique tools to encourage Burma to take real steps towards resolving this crisis, and we must use them. Security Council should move quickly to adopt a resolution that institutes real steps to resolve this enormous, and growing, humanitarian and human rights crisis by sending peace keeping forces through the application of R2P doctrine.

That, too, will be a challenge, as some members of the Council have kept it from taking action for cynical and self-interested reasons. Some undermined the unity the Council demonstrated during the trip with unhelpful edits that only weakened the Council's message. We have all heard horrifying accounts of what the Rohingya people have suffered – what ethnic cleansing and genocide mean to those on the ground. Now members of the Council have seen with their own eyes what this crisis has wrought. That leaves it with no choice but to act now.

Dr. Hla Myint

Ambassador at Large for Australian Minority,
President of Rohingya Intellectual Community Australia, and
Foreign Secretary of ARNO and ARNA



SURGICAL EXCELLENCE WITH ROBOTIC SURGERY

VERSIUS - The Next Generation Surgical Robot by Cambridge Medical Robotics.

Benefits of Versius Surgical Robot:

- Minimally Invasive
- Less Blood Loss
- Shorter Hospitalisation
- Quick Recovery
- Less Pain
- Lesser Chance of Infection

Versius Is Used For Common Surgical Conditions/organs:

- Gall Bladder Stones
- Appendicitis
- Hernia
- Weight Loss Surgery
- Nephrectomy
- Fibroid

SAFURA GREEN (LEVEL-A5), 761 SATMOSJID ROAD, DHANMONDI, DHAKA - 1209

01713429777, 01747584764

www.ssenterprise.com.bd





STUDENT PROTEST AND HASINA'S DOWNFALL IN BANGLADESH: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

It was not initially anticipated that there would be a significant movement during Bengal's well-known rainy season because the rainy season is completely absent from Bangladesh's political calendar, whereas winter is actively present, and Bangladesh observes political holidays from December to March. Given that Bangladesh is a country with a long history of protests and struggles within the context of South Asian political history, However, as widespread protests spread throughout Bangladesh in July and early August (2024), political experts' opinions changed, resulting in an unimaginable situation and a change in the regime.

My book, "Student Protest and Hasina's Downfall in Bangladesh: Causes and Consequences," may be the first to examine the core causes and immediate significance of Hasina's government's downfall in Bangladesh. This book also looks at the essence of the quota movement and how it affected the political climate and regime change in Bangladesh, a democratic country whose political journey is eventful. In Bangladesh's political history, the book chronicles a momentous time when a student-led rebellion claimed over 1,000 lives and caused over 400 injuries. There are a few questions at the book's conclusion that may be

relevant to Bangladesh's political trajectory.

Throughout modern history, students have frequently played a pivotal role in regime changes or significant policy shifts. This trend is evident in numerous landmark protests across the globe, demonstrating the power and influence of student movements. Throughout all of these protests, students witnessed how the government frequently singled out opposition forces for the violence committed against demonstrators, while its own political wing and law enforcement agencies were often to blame for the acts in the name



Against all odds, the students of Bangladesh braved the rainy season, turning an unexpected time of quiet into a season of revolution

of internal security, stability, and development, or even for the sake of national interests.

In Bangladesh, weeks of protests against a quota system for government jobs turned into a broad uprising that forced the prime minister to flee the country and resign. Her sudden departure from office, however, has highlighted the shortcomings of democratic governance. This book believes that the extensive corruption in Bangladesh and her increasingly autocratic reign further fuelled the resentment that eventually boiled over and led to her removal. Many people died in the resulting chaos. Historical instances show similar youth-led uprisings impacting governments in Sri Lanka, Greece, the United States, South Africa, and Czechoslovakia. But the student protests of July-August 2024 in Bangladesh were very different from the student movements that are 'typical in Asian nations'. The Hasina's government in Bangladesh was unable to quell the protest by employing force, and in the face of the

movement's unfathomably powerful momentum, she fled to India with her only surviving sister. In addition, the entire cabinet, every member of over three hundred national parliaments, and public and private figures favored by the government left the country or went into hiding in order to appease the populace. There have rarely been government falls as bad as this in Bangladeshi or South Asian history.

Sheikh Hasina's downfall in 2024 is similar to that of her father, Sheikh Mujib, in 1975. Because of the switch from democracy to

one-party government, his party, the Awami League, was unable to express outrage after the terrible passing of Sheikh Mujib. Her party was overthrown after Sheikh Hasina was subjected to widespread demonstrations against her harsh, dictatorial reign. Following the overthrow of a fascist government in Bangladesh through a widespread uprising, students and the general public have become more aware of the importance of balancing rights and opportunities, removing the power of families and political parties, and establishing real and responsible public representation at all societal levels. People desired the constitution to be revised in light of the new beginning, even though constitutional assembly, in order to strengthen democratic institutions. But there is a lot of pressure on the interim government to declare soon that it would be holding lengthy talks with political parties about possible reforms and a legislative election. In contrast, the interim administration is discussing state reforms prior to holding elections. The new government has begun to prosecute those



The message was clear: 'Talent knows no quota.' What began as a protest against government job quotas ignited a nationwide call for change



From Dhaka to rural towns, thousands took to the streets in the largest uprising Bangladesh had seen in decades, shaking the very foundation of the Hasina government

accused of genocide against the student movement. Investigations have also been started against Hasina and her associates regarding massive corruption and looting. Bangladeshis now have hope for a better future, since their anxiety has subsided and their solidarity has become apparent. The barrier of conflict politics, which is a feature of Bangladesh's post-independence political culture, must be overcome in order for change to be feasible.

Notably, the influence of student protests such as the Arab Spring has not only reached Bangladesh

but far beyond. Student protests in Pakistan's Balochistan and West Bengal, India, have been impacted by the recent events in Bangladesh. The region is projected to benefit if the influence of the Bangladeshi student movement is successful in combating authoritarianism, religious political hegemony, and the abuse of minorities' and dissenters' human rights in South Asia. The impact of the Bangladesh student movement on the future inter-state relations of South Asia can also not be denied.

The ousted Hasina government was accused of

authoritarianism, factionalism, corruption and looting as well as blind loyalty to India. In general, most people in Bangladesh believe that the previous government sold the country's interests to India and the government stayed in power by favoring India. The new government and political situation are expected to limit India's power, influence, commercial and other interests in Bangladesh. Again, India is in trouble due to public anger in Bangladesh over Sheikh Hasina fleeing and taking refuge in India. So the removal of Hasina was a major blow to New Delhi. India had not only effectively bet its relationship with Dhaka on Hasina's rule, but there was also an anti-Indian tilt to the protest movement, which was made up of students, and members of the opposition Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and Islamists, has an anti-Indian bent. An unprecedentedly pro-Indian leader, Sheikh Hasina's downfall as prime minister of Bangladesh has been a major strategic setback for India.

China now has an edge over India and a chance to increase its influence independently with other South Asian countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal as a result of the regime change in Bangladesh. It is possible that Pakistan wishes to take advantage of Bangladesh's regime shift to strengthen its bilateral ties and realign itself in opposition to India's sway. The installation of a new Bangladeshi government offers China an opportunity to expand its influence. That would not only allow Beijing to increase its influence on India's eastern



With the nation in need of leadership, Nobel laureate Dr. Mohammad Yunus emerged as a guiding force, promising reform and justice



A student in Dhaka, Bangladesh, waves the national flag during a protest to demand a trial against the ousted leader Sheikh Hasina.

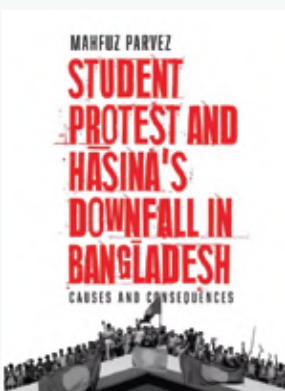
front, as it has done on India's western front through its relationship with Pakistan. It would also boost its presence in the Bay of Bengal and the North Indian Ocean. Crucially, together with recent Chinese inroads in the Maldives, it would help keep New Delhi boxed in South Asia and less able to challenge Beijing in the broader Indo-Pacific theatre.

The United States, which opposed the increasingly

undemocratic Hasina government to India's displeasure, is another constraint on Chinese influence. Washington, which was supportive of the protest movement, is close to interim leader Dr. Mohammad Yunus and is likely to increase its influence as Bangladesh emerges from the crisis. Dhaka will also need US support to secure desperately needed IMF and World Bank lending. However, two former leaders of

major South Asian countries have reportedly accused the United States of covert regime change operations to topple their governments. One of the leaders, former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, languishes in prison, on a perverse conviction that proves Khan's assertion. The other leader, former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, fled to India following a violent coup in her country.

However, numerous improvements occurred in and around after the political change in Bangladesh. But, fixing the political and economic systems at the same time as keeping a balanced relationship with both global and regional powers is an incredibly difficult task for a new government empowered by a mass movement. To achieve this, a reformist agenda must be unified by all political parties and representatives across the nation without any regional or international influence.



The cover of Student Protest and Hasina's Downfall in Bangladesh by Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Prof. Dr. Mahfuz Parvez

Chairman

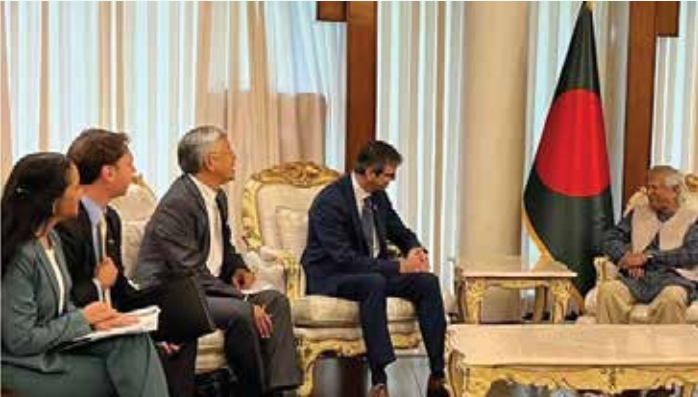
Department of Political Science,

University of Chittagong, Bangladesh &

Executive Director,

Chittagong Center for Regional Studies, Bangladesh (CCRSBD)

U.S. DELEGATION AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN MEETING WITH CHIEF ADVISER H.E. MUHAMMAD YUNUS



In a significant diplomatic engagement, a U.S. delegation met with Chief Adviser Professor H.E. Muhammad Yunus to discuss pathways for fostering inclusive economic growth, strengthening institutions, and enhancing development cooperation aimed at benefiting the people of Bangladesh. The meeting highlighted the shared vision of both nations to promote sustainable and equitable growth in Bangladesh as it moves toward a more just and inclusive future.

During the discussions, the delegation underscored the importance of building resilient institutions that can support economic initiatives and empower communities across the country. With Bangladesh facing various challenges in its pursuit of

development, the U.S. expressed its unwavering support for the country's goals, emphasizing a commitment to partnership in various sectors.

Chief Adviser Yunus, a renowned advocate for social business and development, reiterated the necessity of creating opportunities for all citizens, particularly marginalized groups. He emphasized that inclusive growth is essential not just for economic advancement, but also for social cohesion and stability.

As Bangladesh charts its path forward, the U.S. stands ready to assist in these efforts, offering expertise and resources to help implement strategies that ensure no one is left behind. The meeting reinforced the long-standing relationship between the United States and Bangladesh, focused on mutual interests and shared objectives for a brighter future.

This collaboration not only highlights the potential for growth in Bangladesh but also underscores the importance of international partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals. The U.S. delegation's visit is a testament to the ongoing commitment to support the people of Bangladesh in their journey towards prosperity and equity.

AMBASSADOR IWAMA KIMINORI CALLED ON GENERAL WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN, OSP, SGP, PSC, CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, OF BANGLADESH ARMY



On September 17, Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori called on General Waker-Uz-Zaman, OSP, SGP, psc, Chief of Army Staff, of Bangladesh Army. After discussing cooperation with the interim government, Ambassador IWAMA asked about the current situation regarding the restoration of law and order, and requested that they ensure security for Japanese nationals and that they provide support for the activities of Japanese nationals and companies in Bangladesh. Both parties exchanged views on bilateral defense cooperation including the strengthening of defense relations between the two countries.

U.S. DELEGATION LED BY BRENT NEIMAN MEETS BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN SECRETARY, DISCUSSES KEY REFORMS AND BILATERAL COOPERATION



A six-member U.S. delegation, led by Mr. Brent Neiman, Assistant Secretary for International Finance at the U.S. Department of Treasury, met with Foreign Secretary Ambassador Mr. Md. Jashim Uddin at the State Guest House, Padma. The delegation, which included Ambassador Mr. Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Mr. Brandon Lynch, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, and Ms. Anjali

Kaur, Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID, discussed key areas of reform and cooperation between the two nations.

The Foreign Secretary briefed the U.S. delegation on various reform initiatives undertaken by the interim government, including financial sector and revenue reforms, currency management, trade and investment, and law enforcement reforms. Climate change and Rohingya humanitarian responses were also discussed. High-level officials from Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division, National Board of Revenue, Commerce Ministry, Labour and Employment Ministry, Home Affairs Ministry, and Bangladesh Bank participated in the meeting.

Earlier in the day, the U.S. delegation paid courtesy calls on the Chief Adviser, Foreign Affairs Adviser, and Finance and Commerce Adviser.

SWISS AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATES FOREIGN SECRETARY JASHIM UDDIN, DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AND REFORMS



H.E. Mr. Reto Siegfried Renggli, Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, met with Ambassador Mr. Jashim Uddin this afternoon to congratulate him on his appointment as Foreign Secretary. During the meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Foreign Secretary outlined the Interim Government's priorities, including key reforms with six new commissions, and acknowledged Switzerland's pledge to support these initiatives.

Both diplomats expressed the desire to elevate Bangladesh-Switzerland relations into a broad-based economic partnership. The Foreign Secretary sought Swiss support at the WTO in shaping Bangladesh's post-LDC graduation trading terms and requested an

extension of DFQF (Duty-Free, Quota-Free) market access for Bangladeshi products until at least 2029. Ambassador Renggli assured that the request would be relayed to Swiss authorities and encouraged Bangladesh to consider opening a resident diplomatic mission in Bern post-graduation.

Discussions also focused on enhancing Bangladesh's SME sector through collaboration, with Ambassador Renggli highlighting that 98% of Swiss businesses are SMEs. He acknowledged Bangladesh as a promising market and urged for a level playing field to attract Swiss investment, to which the Foreign Secretary assured support.

Other key topics included the swift implementation of the Bangladesh-Switzerland MoU on Knowledge and Skills Enhancement, addressing the issue of illegal assets in Swiss banks, and continued humanitarian support for the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. The Swiss Ambassador assured cooperation in these areas in line with international standards.

DANISH AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATES BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, DISCUSSES BILATERAL COOPERATION

H.E. Mr. Christian Brix Moller, Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh, congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Affairs Adviser Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain on his new assignment during a courtesy call at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Moller handed over an official congratulatory message from Danish Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen.

Mr. Hossain emphasized the significance of Bangladesh's longstanding relations with Denmark and highlighted the need for reforms in various sectors, including politics, the economy, and electoral systems, to meet the aspirations of the youth. The Danish Ambassador expressed Denmark's readiness to support initiatives for good governance, democracy, human rights, and institutional reforms in Bangladesh.

Ambassador Moller also outlined Denmark's priorities in green energy, mentioning ongoing projects like the Laldia Container Terminal and a 500 MW offshore wind energy project. Both sides expressed a desire for increased cooperation in multilateral forums, leveraging Denmark's upcoming non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council for 2025-2026.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR SERAJUL ISLAM BY FORMER AMBASSADOR SHAHED AKHTAR, COLLEAGUE

It is with deep sadness that I pay tribute to Ambassador Serajul Islam, affectionately known as Sobuj. His passing on August 11, 2024, leaves an irreplaceable void in Bangladesh's diplomatic community and in the hearts of those who knew him. Sobuj was not just a distinguished diplomat but a cherished friend and confidant with whom I shared over five decades of camaraderie.

Our paths intertwined throughout our diplomatic careers, from our early days in Dhanmondi to various

postings abroad. One of the most memorable periods was in Washington, D.C., where Sobuj, then a young Counsellor, played a pivotal role during significant political shifts in Bangladesh. We shared fond memories exploring Cairo and Tokyo during his subsequent postings, where his diplomatic insight and humor shone.

Sobuj's intellectual contributions were profound, particularly through his active participation in the Dhaka Forum, where he passionately advocated for political reform in Bangladesh. His vision for the country's future was inspiring, and I know he would have been optimistic about recent developments.

A man of faith and integrity, Sobuj leaves behind a legacy of dedication to Bangladesh. His illustrious career, which spanned key ambassadorial roles in Egypt, Japan, Sudan, Greece, and Ethiopia, continued even after retirement, as he remained a prolific writer and advisor. His passing is a great loss, but his contributions will resonate for years to come.

AUSTRALIAN ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER NARDIA SIMPSON MEETS WITH BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN ADVISER, DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES



Ms. Nardia Simpson, the Acting High Commissioner of Australia, made her first courtesy call on H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Hon'ble Foreign Adviser of Bangladesh, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Adviser Hossain welcomed Ms. Simpson and highlighted the shared values of democracy, human rights, and prosperity between the two nations. He reiterated the government's commitment to reforms following the student-led mass movement of July-August 2024.

Ms. Simpson expressed her condolences for the recent turmoil in Bangladesh and praised efforts to secure Dhaka-based foreign missions. She reaffirmed Australia's continued support for Bangladesh's democratic future, referencing Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong's visit in May 2024.

Discussions covered areas of political engagement, trade, investment, and human resource development, with an emphasis on easing student visa processing to support growing demand from Bangladeshi students. Adviser Hossain reiterated Bangladesh's stance against irregular migration and the need for cooperation in repatriating irregular nationals from Australia.

The meeting also addressed the Rohingya crisis, with H.E. Hossain calling for increased international pressure on Myanmar to accelerate the repatriation process, while thanking Australia for its ongoing humanitarian support.

MALDIVES HIGH COMMISSIONER H.E. SHIUNEEN RASHEED PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN



On September 2, 2024, H.E. Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed, the newly appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives, officially presented her credentials to the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh, Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin. The ceremony took place at the Bangabhaban, where both dignitaries discussed strengthening bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the Maldives. High Commissioner Rasheed's appointment marks a step forward in enhancing cooperation between the two nations across various sectors.

USAID SIGNS OVER \$200 MILLION AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH TO BOOST DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWER YOUTH



In a significant step towards greater prosperity, USAID has signed an agreement worth over \$200 million with the interim government of Bangladesh. This funding aims to advance the country's development activities, empower youth, strengthen democracy and governance, improve health systems, and expand trade and economic activities nationwide.

From 2021 to 2026, USAID has committed nearly \$1 billion in assistance to support the Bangladeshi people. The new funds will facilitate efforts to create a more inclusive, equitable, and democratic framework for the nation's citizens, reinforcing USAID's commitment to enhancing the well-being of the Bangladeshi populace.

ASEAN DHAKA COMMITTEE PROVIDES FLOOD RELIEF DONATION



On 17 September 2024, the Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, as Chair of the ASEAN Dhaka Committee (ADC), together with Ambassadors and officials from the embassies of ASEAN member countries in Dhaka—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—presented relief items to flood victims in Bangladesh through the Help Foundation. The contribution included rice, lentils, cooking oil and red onions, with a total value of 240,000 taka.

This activity reflects the unity and solidarity of ASEAN member countries in providing humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh who is a friend in times of hardship and difficulty.

ADC is a mechanism among diplomatic missions of ASEAN Member States in a third country to promote closer cooperation between ASEAN and the host country as well as enhance awareness about ASEAN among the public. The Chair of ASEAN rotates every six months. Major activities this year are the celebration of ASEAN Day and the exchange of views with the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh.

TURKISH DELEGATION VISITS BANGLADESH TO COORDINATE HUMANITARIAN AID AND STRENGTHEN ROHINGYA SUPPORT



On September 3, 2024, a Turkish delegation led by H.E. Ambassador Korhan Karakoc, Director General for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance, visited Bangladesh to coordinate Türkiye's aid for flood-affected communities. The delegation, accompanied by the Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh, H.E. Ramis Sen, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka.

Ambassador Karakoc congratulated Mr. Hossain on his new role and discussed Türkiye's ongoing humanitarian efforts. He also expressed interest in visiting the Rohingya camps. The Adviser for Foreign Affairs thanked Türkiye for its aid and urged continued support for resolving the Rohingya crisis on international platforms. The Turkish delegation briefed on the activities of the Turkish Hospital in Cox's Bazar and sought assistance to enhance its services, receiving assurances of cooperation from the Bangladeshi government.

SWITZERLAND STRENGTHENS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH BANGLADESH: AMBASSADOR RETO RENGGLI ENGAGES WITH KEY MINISTRY ADVISERS ON GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES



Switzerland is an effective, innovative, and committed development partner of Bangladesh. This partnership was highlighted when Ambassador Reto

Renggli met with the Advisers for the Ministries of Planning, Education, LGRD, and Land. They discussed a host of bilateral topics, including Switzerland -Bangladesh cooperation on governance, strengthening local institutions, human rights, labor rights, and climate change, as well as piloting innovative initiatives such as microinsurance. The Advisers also addressed the macroeconomic situation of Bangladesh, challenges and opportunities in rural development and local governance, and the priorities of the interim government.

DIPLOMATS

WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

Subscription

WILL BE PAID BY

STAMP

Valid only for Bangladesh

REPLY ENVELOPE

DIPLOMATS

Address : House - 58, Road - 03, Block - B, Niketon Society, Gulshan - 1, Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh

Phone : +88 02 4881 2430, Hotline : +880 1972344788, email : info@diplomats.news

website : www.diplomats.news

Subscription
FORM

Yes I would like to subscribe to Diplomats
for issues from the month of

Personal Details:

Please complete this form and return to the address below
Alternatively you can order online on telephone

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Others

Name:

Job title:

Company:

Delivery Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

The above information is purely for the purpose of subscription and
delivery of the publication/s of the Diplomats. This information
not be shared with or distributed to any other entity and will be
stored at the highest data privacy and storage levels.

Payment Total Tk. 2400 (200 BDT Per Issue)

☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to Diplomats)

☐ Cash Payment

☐ Bkash

For more details, please contact

Phone: +88 02 4881 2430

Hotline: +880 1972344788

Email: info@diplomats.news

www.diplomats.news

Subscription
FORM

Luxury You Deserve Prices You'll Love

Discover luxury at prices you
will love with comfortable setup
and productive atmosphere!

Customization Available

- 18 Event Spaces •**
- 7 Breakout Rooms •**
- 1000+ Guest Capacity •**



T&C apply

For Bookings
+8801313709029 | +880255668111

Sheraton Dhaka: 44, Kemal Ataturk

Y

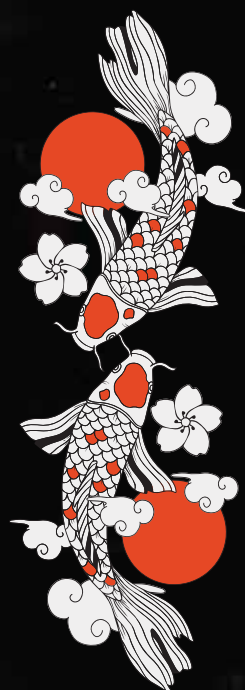
由美

M

I

EXPERIENCE TEPPANYAKI

Witness the art of live Teppanyaki
where the chef is both an artist
and a performer!



For reservation
+8801313709032

T&C Apply

