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DIPLOMATS

WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

**For All Women and Girls: Unlocking Rights, Power,
and Opportunities**

**Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Bangladesh—
A Vital National Interest**

BIMSTEC Summit- Hope for Rohingya Repatriation

**The Day Bangladesh Stood Strong: Remembering the Independence
Day of Sovereign Bangladesh**





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Diplomats Flash Corner

Diplomat's World extends warm greetings to its readership on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

As Bangladesh marks the 54th anniversary of its independence, this year's celebration is imbued with renewed meaning. It follows the student-led mass uprising of July–August 2024—a defining moment in the nation's democratic journey. Echoing the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War, this civic awakening rekindled the struggle for equality, human dignity, and social justice. It reaffirmed the enduring aspirations of the Bangladeshi people for a just, inclusive, and democratic society. Messages of solidarity have poured in from global leaders, including those of the United States, India, China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UK, Japan and Germany.

Bangladesh today remains committed to fostering peaceful, constructive relations with its neighbors, anchored in the principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and mutual respect. Guided by a vision of good governance, the nation seeks to reinforce democratic institutions, promote accountability, and ensure the welfare of its citizens.

Bangladesh continues to expand its diplomatic footprint on the international stage. The recent state visit of Chief Adviser Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus to China marked a significant step forward. High-level talks focused on deepening strategic economic cooperation, enhancing trade and investment, and advancing green energy partnerships. With rising Chinese investor interest, Bangladesh is steadily consolidating its position as a prime economic hub in South Asia.

The landmark visit of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, at the invitation of Prof. Yunus, further underlined Bangladesh's diplomatic relevance. His engagement with the Interim Government and his visit to the Rohingya refugee camps brought renewed global focus to the nation's humanitarian commitments. The Secretary-General's endorsement of Bangladesh's democratic transition helped counter disinformation and reaffirmed international confidence in the country's governance trajectory.

This issue of Diplomat's World offers in-depth analyses of these developments alongside expert perspectives on foreign policy, gender-inclusive governance, agricultural innovation, and global security. We invite our readers to explore these pages and engage with the evolving narratives shaping diplomacy in the 21st century.

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



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SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BANGLADESH—A VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Aminul Karim

Sovereignty is an abstract concept. Shared sovereignty is now an accepted concept. We have to honour it because of a globalized world. The globalized world, generally, works under the UN framework.

Bangladesh was born out of bloody war. New Statesman of London said about it in 1971, “If blood is the price of people’s right to independence, then Bangladesh has overpaid it”. It earned its freedom through fighting for nine months of protracted battles of attrition. Earning freedom was then the vital national interest of

Bangladesh. That said, we also duly acknowledge the support and provisions provided to us by India during our desperate time.

Bangladesh further consolidates its sovereignty in July 2024, through a student-led movement that turned into a mass upsurge. Generation-Z rescued this nation from the clutches of an authoritarian and autocratic regime, fully backed by a neighbouring hegemonic power. It lacked all prescriptive international values and standards. It

sacrificed democracy at the altar of fascism and authoritarianism.

Military Security Challenges for Bangladesh

Bangladesh is surrounded by India on all sides. But sad to mention, more than four thousand km international border area has already been blocked by concertina wire. Such an initiative goes against the concept of connectivity.

The Chicken’s neck is a thorny issue, which connects mainland India with seven Indian states to the North



Mass uprising in July 2024 where Generation Z led a historic movement to reclaim Bangladesh's democratic sovereignty from an authoritarian regime

East. This neck is strategically important, both to India, China and Bangladesh.

China's western theatre that oversees Arunachal province is a formidable force. It is a network centric military command structure. India's Eastern command is facing it.

We have to make a delicate balance in handling these two giants.

The Bay of Bengal –sea lines of communication—is critical for our sustenance. Two lanes out of which one is going to Middle east and the other to South East Asia.

Bangladesh has limited resources on the shore. Future of Bangladesh, therefore, hinges on the blue economy of Bangladesh.

The Bay is linked to the South China Sea through the Malacca

Strait. All major powers especially the QUAD is relevant here. The QUAD is a military alliance. It means business in the affairs of the Indo-Pacific. Ripple effects that originate in the South China Sea may impact Bangladesh.

Indian Ocean islands in the south of Bangladesh are critical. Regular military exercises are conducted here. Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strategically important. There is a possibility of stationing nuclear weapons. Japan and India are investing heavily for their military upgradation.

Myanmar is part of China's bypass strategy in respect to the Malacca Strait. China intends to enter the Bay through this way. Chinese submarines are often seen patrolling, along with research ships. Maldives and Sri Lanka have similar stakes as that of Bangladesh, when confrontational posture is active between India and China.

Rohingya issue—not solvable in the near future—is hitting Bangladesh severely. China is the only reckonable power that may facilitate resolve this imbroglio. But that process, so far, is not working. Veto was exercised by both China and Russia in the United Nations Security Council to block international action. India may not come forward to resolve the Rohingya Issue.

Is there a military solution? That may not be considered now. Myanmar is fragmented now. The fight between Arakan



Concertina wire fences along the 4,000 km Bangladesh-India border symbolize growing militarization over regional connectivity

Army, NUG, Tatmadaw –complex and complicated issues—is bleeding Myanmar.

Burma Act---USAID is now under strain—may get stalled for some time. The future of a Christian state is a distant reality under Trump administration.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bandarban is under threat. Kuki Chin group keeps on disturbing. Evangelization is a concern in

famous saying by the US Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Our diplomacy and defence should work in cohort.

Ideas from Machiavellian the Prince

“If an injury has to be done to a man it should be so severe that his vengeance need not be feared.”

“The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot

worked out military strategy to fight the war along with a suggestion to form a political government. Political government in exile was formed in April 1971 to provide political direction to its military machinery. This was the prescription of Clausewitz. The Country was divided into 11 operational sectors to fight both conventional and unconventional warfare together. Three conventional Forces such as Z, K and M forces---brigade sized-- were raised during the later part of the War. So, Bangladesh Army was raised conventionally during the campaign in 1971. Both Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Forces came into being during the great liberation War. Their operations during the later part of the War were laudable.

Five brigade-sized army in 1975 has been transformed to 12 divisions strong Army today. It is a remarkable achievement. Now we have to go for quality. Credit goes to all successive governments starting with President Zia.

He introduced division concept in the Army. The first division raised was 9 Infantry Division. It was a paradigmatic change. This author had rare privilege to command this division.

Acute Necessity of Modernization and self-sufficiency.

The military should be technology savvy. Artificial intelligence, drones, ground air defence forces including long-range effective missiles are to be operationalized in the



The Chicken's Neck is a strategic corridor with deep implications for India China and Bangladesh in the context of regional military logistics

the CHT, where the Kuki Chin group is a factor.

India may tend to hegemonize us once again. We should be alert. Freedom is not given on platter. Examples are 1971 War and 2024 July mass uprising as mentioned.

Our Military Strategies

Reach out to the ASEAN, China, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia UAE etc. for strategic alignment. We should not go for any military alliance.

Diplomacy should be backed by potent military force. This is a

defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves.”

“Where the willingness is great, the difficulties cannot be great.”

“He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command”

— Niccolò Machiavelli,
quote from The Prince

Background of Bangladesh Armed Forces

Teliapara Conference attended by the senior military commanders in April 1971



Chinese submarines and research vessels often patrol the Bay of Bengal reflecting rising geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific region

military system of Bangladesh. Bangladesh military should be self-reliant in different types of small arms and varieties of ammunition and logistics. Innovation is the way forward. Defence science organization may be raised. Better quality submarines need to be procured for the protection of the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh Navy should be made three dimensional in true sense of the term.

Diversification of foreign procurement.

Europe, USA, Turkey, UK etc. can be the other sources for procurement other than China. Alignment relations with China, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait etc. should be pursued.

Blending conventional with unconventional

We need both conventional and non-conventional forces to fight together under the same operational plan. Social and political forces to be also amalgamated as well. BDR, Ansar, BNCC need to be further modernized, and trained and

better integrated with the armed forces for their use during a war. Idea of a national service for all able-bodied men and women may be considered.

Sea Lines of Communication

There are two different sea lines of communication in the Bay of Bengal for Bangladesh. Those must be protected for our sustenance as a nation. More modern submarines, modern surface ships need to be procured. Bangladesh Navy should be a three dimensional effective and sustainable force

as mentioned. Bangladesh Navy has procured diesel engine submarines, which is a landmark event for the nation. These are working excellent as training platforms. Now is time to go for more sophisticated platforms.

Intelligence Collection and Coordination

Tactical level intelligence is the responsibility up to division level. Operational level intelligence is the responsibility of the services headquarters. Operational and strategic level intelligence are the prerogatives of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI). This should be the primary responsibility of the DGFI. There should be more efforts in counter intelligence. Intelligence coordination may be done by the Armed Forces Division.

Different operational branches should work in close harmony with the intelligence agencies for preparing operational plan and their implementation. Use of the satellites may be considered. Cyber security



The Rohingya crisis remains unresolved straining Bangladesh's resources and complicating regional diplomacy



Bangladesh earns global respect through its continued and vital participation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

should be given special emphasis.

Continue with the UN Peace Support Operations

The country has earned a good name by participating in the UN peace support operations all over the world. This should be continued with greater vitality. The Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations should be developed as a regional hub for specialized training on UN Peace Support Operations. This

will strengthen our collective security and earn good image for the country.

Better Civil Military Relations (CMR) are essential to fight a modern day warfare. We have serious lacunae here. Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) can do a great job to harmonize better CMR. It is heartening to note the Veteran's Directorate has been raised in the Army Headquarters. This will keep

our reserve forces ready, should the exigencies so demand? This Directorate should also cater for the welfare needs of both soldiers and officers. Rehabilitation of well-groomed and trained personnel should be better handled for national development and security.

Media Warfare

The performance of the ISPR is not up to the mark. This should be revitalized. Media war is intrinsic in any future war. Media training should be incorporated in any advanced courses for officers and non-commissioned officers.

To conclude, Bangladesh has huge potential as a regional geopolitical actor. But it is beleaguered by huge population growth in a short space. It is also vulnerable geopolitically. Bangladesh needs to keep its house in order, both politically and economically and remain prepared to face any military eventuality or natural disasters.

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Aminul Karim

Former Commandant, National Defense College, Bangladesh
Former Visiting Professor, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur



ALGERIAN EMBASSY IN DHAKA MARKS 63RD VICTORY DAY

The Algerian Embassy in Dhaka commemorated the 63rd Anniversary of Victory Day on March 19 with a solemn ceremony. The event began with the national flag hoisting and anthem, followed by a moment of silence for the martyrs.

Ambassador H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani laid a floral wreath in tribute and delivered a speech highlighting Algeria's independence journey, the significance of the Evian Accords, and the nation's ongoing development and investment potential.

The program included prayers by the Khatib of Gulshan Jamee Masjid and concluded with a documentary showcasing Algeria's struggle for freedom. Diplomats, businessmen, and community members attended the event.





BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE: A GENDER-RESPONSIVE FUTURE IN ASIA

Sanjay Mathur

Urbanization is reshaping our world and future and nowhere is this transformation more profound than in Asia. Today, more than 2.2 billion people – 54 percent of the global urban population – live in Asian cities. By 2050, this figure is expected to increase by an additional 1.2 billion people. As urban centers expand, so must our vision for them. Cities must work for everyone, and that means gender-responsive urban planning must top our agenda.

It could not be clearer: the future of urbanization must be shaped by women.

Today, more than 80 percent of global GDP is generated in cities. Done right, urbanization can be the engine for tremendous

economic growth. It can be the forklift that pulls millions out of poverty. It can bring opportunities and access to people at an unprecedented scale. It can reshape lives by expanding access to jobs, services and infrastructure, making cities hubs of progress and innovation.

But done wrong, rapid urbanization will exclude billions, tattoo inequalities into the very fabric of our societies and derail our efforts towards a sustainable urban future.

We need to ask ourselves: What kind of cities are we building?

Our gendered reality

Already, women and girls make up nearly half of the urban

population, yet they continue to navigate a maze of barriers – barriers that keep them from safe homes, secure jobs, quality healthcare and public open spaces where they feel seen, heard and safe.

In developing countries, more than half of women and girls living in cities lack at least one essential service: clean water, improved sanitation, durable housing or adequate living space. For instance, in the ASEAN region, 65 percent of women aged 15 to 49 migrate to cities seeking better economic opportunities, yet they often find themselves trapped in cycles of poverty due to unsafe living conditions, lack of social protections and limited access to decision-making processes.



An urban walk sparks questions and ideas on how Nepal's cities can be made more inclusive, safe and livable for all

Numbers indicate a similar pattern in South Asia.

We must collectively consider: How much talent, potential and progress are we losing simply because our cities are not built for everyone?

Centering women in urban development: Cities4Women in Nepal

One initiative leading the way in gender-responsive urbanization is the Cities4Women project in Nepal. The project – backed by the European Union and Government of Finland, in collaboration with Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat and UNOPS is working to reshape urban spaces by prioritizing women's needs in safety and public participation.

Too often, women are confronted by poorly planned public transport, harassment in public open spaces and a lack of gender-sensitive infrastructure. It restricts their mobility and general feelings of security. Cities4Women

advocates to address these challenges by advocating for safer streets, well-lit public open spaces and inclusive urban policies that amplify women's voices in municipal decision-making.

Beyond policy change, the initiative fosters community engagement, ensuring that women are actively involved in shaping the future of their cities.

This participation is crucial because when women are included in urban planning and design, cities become safer, more efficient, and more equitable for everyone.

Expanding women's rights to the city across Asia

Nepal is not alone in pioneering planning and designing cities that work for women and girls. From bustling metropolises to growing towns, UNOPS gender-focused initiatives across Asia are turning the tide on inequalities.

In Myanmar, the Access to Health Fund is working to improve gender equality in healthcare access. Women and girls often face significant barriers to medical services, exacerbated by conflict and political instability. Since 2019, the fund has prioritized gender-focused interventions, increasing women's representation in local health governance structures from 27 percent to 41 percent by 2024. It has also integrated services to prevent gender-based violence into its health projects,



The Cities 4 Women project is reimagining Durbar Street in Tansen, Nepal – developing a safer, more inclusive space for all



During an urban walk in Tansen, Nepal's next generation of women urban planners explore ways to make public spaces more inclusive and sustainable

reaching more than 25,000 people through awareness campaigns in 2024 alone.

In China, women entrepreneurs are driving sustainable urban solutions. Through joint procurement projects,

women-owned businesses are advancing ethical production and climate-conscious innovations.

In the Philippines, gender-responsive urbanization is advancing through the



The Cities 4 Women project in Nepal is helping transform Tansen's Durbar Street – now home to a weekly market, where women lead as 70% of vendors

establishment of Women and Children Protection Units in public health facilities nationwide. These units provide lifesaving care to survivors of gender-based violence, including children as young as four, ensuring that urban growth is accompanied by increased safety and inclusivity. Through the ADB-HEAL Project, healthcare professionals have received training to equip them with the skills needed to establish and manage these units effectively in local communities.

A call to action for inclusive cities

If cities are to thrive in the coming decades, they must be designed with and for women. Urban planning that prioritizes gender equity is not just about safety or inclusion – it is about building sustainable, resilient, and prosperous societies. Gender-responsive initiatives like Cities4Women, Access to Health, and ADB-HEAL prove that when women are given a voice, communities flourish.

As Asia's cities continue to grow, we must re-do the blueprint. They must not replicate old patterns of exclusion. Instead, they must embrace feminist principles that prioritize equity, safety, and opportunity for all. The future of urbanization depends on it.

Sanjay Mathur
Regional Director
Asia Pacific Region, UNOPS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WAS CELEBRATED AT THE RUSSIAN HOUSE IN DHAKA

On March 6, 2025, a festive evening was organized at the Russian House in Dhaka to celebrate International Women's Day with the Association of Soviet/Russian Alumni of Bangladesh. More than 100 guests gathered in a warm atmosphere to congratulate women on this spring holiday. Each participant received flowers and souvenirs symbolizing love, respect, and recognition of their contribution to the development of culture and education.

This year the event coincided with the holy month of Ramadan, which inspired the Russian House to organize a joint iftar- the first evening meal after sunset after a whole day of fasting. Guests, regardless of religion were able to share a traditional meal, emphasizing the spirit of unity and mutual respect.

The event continued with a discussion on future-plans, including new cultural initiatives that will continue to bring Bangladesh and Russia closer through education, art and mutual understanding.



6th BIMSTEC SUMMIT

4 APRIL 2025 BANGKOK, THAILAND



BIMSTEC SUMMIT- HOPE FOR ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD

The BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand 2025 has been politically and diplomatically very successful for the Interim Government. The relationship with both our neighbors recently is not going smoothly mainly because of the Rohingya issue with one neighbor and the ousting of the Hasina Regime with the other. Chief Advisor's sideline meeting at BIMSTEC with both Heads of the government of neighboring (bordering) countries has exhibited the diplomatic prudence of Dhaka.

Based on recent developments on the Rohingya issue at the Summit, I would like to discuss my take on the prospect of Rohingya Repatriation; the declaration of positive



Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Prime Minister of Thailand Paetongtarn Shinawatra during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok on 4 April 2025

verification of one lac eighty thousand Rohingyas as well as another seventy thousand verifications in the process is undoubtedly an excellent diplomatic headway after such a long impasse on the issue. However, let me caution the readers not to jump to the conclusion that Rohingya

repatriation is around the corner. A few factors should be taken into consideration before reaching a deduction. In January 2018 there was an agreement with Myanmar and a repatriation arrangement deal was signed between two countries where the foreign minister of Indonesia played

an important role. The repatriation was scheduled to commence on 23 January 2018. Bangladesh shared the list of Rohingyas for verification earlier of the agreed repatriation date and here we are today. Bangladesh proposed to Myanmar to receive 15,000 Rohingyas per week but Myanmar agreed to receive 15,00. Nonetheless, not a single Rohingya was repatriated.

The Junta's expression of eligibility of 1,80,000 Rohingyas to return to Myanmar at the sideline of the Summit and the intention of taking back Rohingyas are two different issues. Especially, on Rohingya repatriation, the Junta has no practical significance at the moment and maybe shortly. Rakhine state where the Rohingya would repatriate is totally under the control of the Arakan Army



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus attending sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on Friday, 4 April 2025



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi join a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand

(AA). They are the authority and the Junta is not even in any decision-making cycle in Rakhine State. Janta's force, TATMADAW has been defeated in detail and is now at the mercy of AA in whatever pockets they are surviving in Rakhine. In reality, AA and its political wing United League of Arakan (ULA) are in a position to decide on Rohingya repatriation.

TATMADAW is run by a cunning set of professionals, deception, decoy, and divide are their favorite tools. In a negotiation, their expression seldom reveals a conclusion. If we recall, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing when he took over as Chief of Defence in 2011 said, 'We have an unfinished job to be done' that heightened Rohingya persecution and finally shaped into genocide (ethnic cleansing) in 2017. In 2018, in an international media Senior General commented about Rohingya repatriation 'We did not send them to bring

them back'. In 2021 after the coup when the Junta was on the back foot both at home and abroad, even then to other international media Junta Chief cleared his position about Rohingya repatriation, 'there was no option to bring them back'. This gentleman is known to be egoistic and pursuer of aim. We need to read the face under the mask.

So, why Junta is showing a positive attitude towards Rohingya repatriation? This is a diplomatic mischief by the Junta to push the ball in AA's court on one hand and on the other hand attach a clause 'when the situation in Rakhine is favorable for repatriation', meaning no promise is being made. The other reason could be Malaysia being the Chair of ASEAN has deputed a special envoy on the Rohingya issue who is pushing the matter. Also, the recent visit of Prof Yunus to China and Dhaka's proposition to help resolve the Rohingya crisis to President Xi Jinping is a factor too. More so, the UN Secretary General's visit to Bangladesh and eating together with Rohingya at Cox's Bazar is a strong signal of sympathy and solidarity for the repatriation of Rohingya. All of these, have conditioned to compel Min Aung Haling to come up with this Rohingya verification statement at BIMSTEC after six years.



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus holds a bilateral meeting with Bhutan Prime Minister Dashi Tshering Tobgay on the sidelines of sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand



Rohingya refugees including women and children cross from Myanmar into Bangladesh

I shall not be surprised if at an opportune moment, Janta plans to carry out an offensive in Rakhine and seeks Dhaka's assistance in the form of sealing the border to deprive any kind of support to AA in exchange promise of Rohingya

repatriation. Alternatively, in a desperation the Junta might agree to a UN peace enforcement operation under Chapter VII in Rakhine in the plea for Rohingya repatriation and protection of minorities thereby pushing AA on the

back foot and gaining a foothold in Rakhine again. In any case, both China and India are comfortable with the Junta since their interests were served by the Junta. Regional powers are likely to support the Junta for predictability, dependability, and stability in Rakhine.

However, as a student of security studies, I am not very hopeful about Rohingya repatriation on the face value of the Junta's current statement on the sideline at the BIMSTEC Summit. Nonetheless, this is also a significant development and I would like to recognize the pragmatism of the Interim Government that it attached due importance to the Rohingya issue and deputed a person of wisdom as a high representative of the government to dedicatedly deal with the issue and we are observing the difference.

Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD
Former Principal Staff Officer
Armed Forces Division

Diplomats Journey

Diplomats World started its journey in 2018 as the first and only publication of diplomatic news in Bangladesh with the aim of highlighting the progress of democratization and economic developments in Bangladesh.

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

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

From the array of activities of **Diplomats World**, few of the following are notable-

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

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

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

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



STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE: FRANCE AND BANGLADESH UNITE TO COMBAT LEAD CONTAMINATION

H.E. Mrs. Marie MASDUPUY

The launch of the Capacity Building for the Reduction of Lead Contamination in Bangladesh project marked a significant milestone in the ongoing collaboration between France and Bangladesh. This initiative underscores the deep-rooted partnership between the two nations, founded on shared values, mutual respect, and a commitment to a sustainable future. The event brought together government

officials, environmental experts, international partners, and key stakeholders, all united in their mission to tackle one of the most pressing environmental and public health crises in Bangladesh.

A Strong Commitment to Environmental Resilience

Environmental resilience is a central pillar of France's global development strategy.

As a nation committed to combating climate change and promoting sustainable development, France has continuously supported Bangladesh in its efforts to address environmental challenges. Over the years, this collaboration has extended across multiple sectors, including climate change adaptation, renewable energy, sustainable urban development, and pollution control.



H.E. Mrs. Marie MASDUPUY

France strongly believes in the principles of green growth and circular economy, which emphasize reducing environmental impact through innovation, responsible governance, and international cooperation. This approach has been a driving force behind many successful projects worldwide, and Bangladesh stands as a key partner in implementing sustainable environmental solutions.

The French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) has long been at the forefront of supporting innovative projects aimed at tackling major environmental issues. The FFEM's latest project in Bangladesh is a direct response to the severe threats posed by lead contamination, a critical yet often overlooked environmental crisis.

The Urgency to Address Lead Pollution

Lead contamination has emerged as a silent but deadly environmental hazard, particularly affecting communities involved in informal and poorly regulated

industries such as lead-acid battery recycling. These activities contribute significantly to environmental degradation and pose severe health risks, especially to vulnerable groups like children and pregnant women.

Scientific research has consistently shown that lead poisoning can cause lifelong developmental and neurological damage, particularly in children. The toxic effects of lead exposure impair cognitive functions, leading to a reduction in IQ levels and overall productivity. Pregnant women

exposed to high levels of lead face increased risks of complications, including miscarriage and premature births.

According to global studies, the cost of inaction on lead contamination in Bangladesh is alarming. The economic toll of lead pollution in the country amounts to a staggering \$28 billion annually. This includes:

- The loss of 20 million IQ points among children each year.
- 140,000 adult deaths annually due to cardiac diseases linked to lead poisoning.
- Severe pregnancy complications, increasing health risks for expectant mothers and their babies.
- A total economic impact of \$28,633 million, equivalent to 6 to 9% of Bangladesh's GDP, due to the loss of health, productivity, and workforce potential.

These statistics highlight the urgency of immediate intervention. Without proactive measures, lead contamination will continue to undermine



Lead Contamination Impact – An image showing polluted industrial areas, lead battery recycling sites in Bangladesh



H.E. Mrs. Marie MASDUPUY

Bangladesh's economic growth, human capital, and overall development potential.

Implementing Sustainable Solutions

The FFEM Project in Bangladesh, implemented by Pure Earth, is designed to directly tackle the challenges posed by lead pollution. The initiative aims to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance governance frameworks, and introduce effective solutions to reduce lead exposure across the country. By leveraging scientific research, public awareness campaigns, and regulatory improvements, the project seeks to create long-lasting environmental and public health benefits.

Key objectives of the FFEM Project include:

- Enhancing institutional capacity: Providing training and resources to government agencies, industries, and local authorities to strengthen lead contamination regulations.
- Improving governance and policy enforcement: Establishing stricter environmental laws and ensuring their effective implementation.

- Developing sustainable solutions: Promoting cleaner alternatives and safer waste management practices to minimize lead pollution.
- Raising public awareness: Educating communities about the dangers of lead exposure and empowering them to take preventive measures.

Bangladesh has made significant progress in environmental protection, climate adaptation, and pollution control. This project is another step forward in ensuring the health and

well-being of communities most affected by toxic contamination.

France is honored to be a committed partner in this journey, working alongside the Government of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Pure Earth to drive sustainable solutions and build a cleaner future.

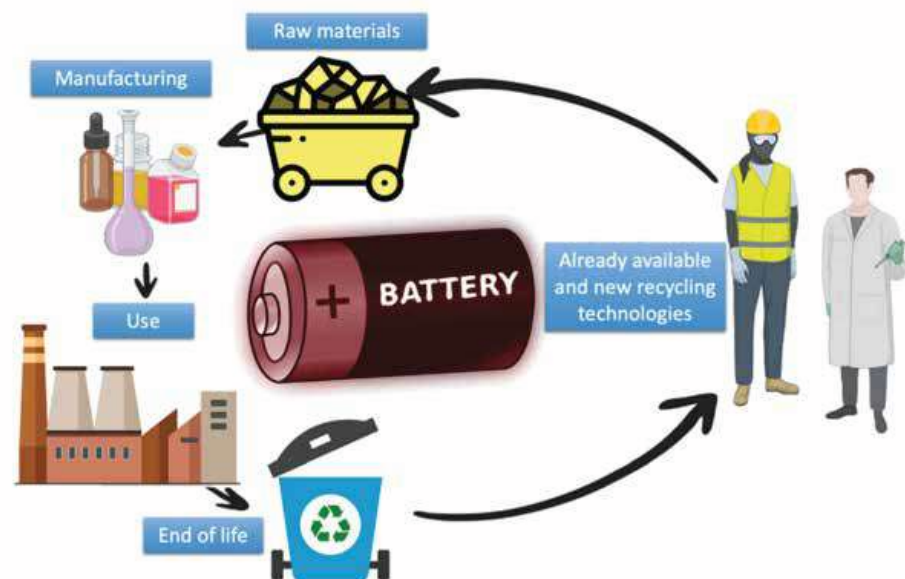
France's Broader Commitment to Environmental Protection

France's commitment to environmental sustainability in Bangladesh extends beyond lead contamination. Through the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France actively supports multiple initiatives that align with Bangladesh's long-term vision for sustainable urban and industrial development.

One of the most notable projects is the BEST Project, co-financed with the World Bank. This initiative aims to:



A woman in pollution free rural Bangladesh



- Operationalize a Green Credit Guarantee Scheme, providing financial incentives for industries to invest in cleaner technologies.
- Encourage industrial pollution control measures, reducing emissions and environmental degradation.
- Support businesses in transitioning to sustainable production methods, minimizing their ecological footprint.

These efforts reflect France's unwavering support for Bangladesh's transition towards an environmentally responsible and economically resilient future. The combination of policy interventions, technological innovations, and international collaboration ensures that Bangladesh can continue to grow

while maintaining its commitment to sustainability.

A Call for Collective Action

The success of the Capacity Building for the Reduction of Lead Contamination in Bangladesh project highlights the power of partnership and collaboration in addressing environmental challenges. France extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Pure Earth, and all stakeholders who have played a crucial role in bringing this initiative to fruition.

Environmental challenges, particularly lead

contamination, require collective action and sustained commitment from all sectors—government agencies, private enterprises, civil society, and international partners. By joining forces, we can develop and implement solutions that protect public health, preserve natural resources, and ensure economic sustainability.

The Road Ahead: A Cleaner, Healthier, and More Resilient Bangladesh

Today, France and Bangladesh reaffirm their shared mission for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. By combining economic growth with environmental responsibility, Bangladesh is paving the way for a new era of sustainable development.

Together, we can eliminate lead pollution, safeguard future generations, and build a nation where progress and sustainability go hand in hand. Through continued collaboration, investment in innovation, and unwavering commitment to environmental protection, we can create a brighter, healthier, and more prosperous Bangladesh.

By working together, we can turn this vision into reality.

H.E. Mrs. Marie MASDUPUY
Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of France

JAMDANI: THE PRIDE OF BANGLADESHI WEAVING HERITAGE

Jamdani is a traditional handwoven fabric that proudly represents the rich textile heritage of Bangladesh. Its roots go back to the Mughal era, when it was highly valued for its refined quality, artistic beauty, and luxurious feel. Made from the finest cotton, Jamdani is soft, lightweight, and breathable, making it ideal for the warm and humid climate of the region. What makes Jamdani truly special is the supplementary weft technique used in its creation. In this method, artisans manually insert extra threads into the fabric during the weaving process to form intricate and decorative motifs. This labor-intensive process requires a high level of craftsmanship and patience, resulting in each Jamdani piece being one of a kind.

The motifs commonly seen in Jamdani include floral patterns, geometric designs, and traditional symbols that carry deep cultural meanings. These designs reflect a blend of Mughal influence and Bengali artistic expression. Unlike printed or embroidered textiles, the motifs in Jamdani are woven directly into the fabric, giving it a textured and elegant appearance. The weaving of Jamdani has been preserved for generations in Rupganj and Sonargaon areas of Narayanganj.

In 2013, UNESCO recognized Jamdani as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Today, Jamdani saris are worn during weddings, festivals, and special occasions. Despite modern challenges, skilled artisans continue to uphold this tradition, ensuring that Jamdani remains a vibrant symbol of Bangladesh's cultural legacy.





FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS: UNLOCKING RIGHTS, POWER, AND OPPORTUNITIES

On 19 March 2025, policy-makers, diplomats, development partners, civil society representatives, and youth leaders, gathered at a high-level roundtable discussion titled For All Women and Girls: Unlocking Rights, Power, and Opportunities jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Bangladesh, the Embassy of the Philippines, and DIPLOMATS World Publication. The event was held in celebration of this year's International Women's Day with the aim of fostering a meaningful dialogue on promoting gender equality in Bangladesh and beyond.

This year's theme calls for concrete actions to unlock equal rights, power, and opportunities for all women and girls, ensuring a future where no one is left behind. Reinforcing global commitments to gender equality, empowerment, and inclusivity, the discussion underscored the significance of 2025 as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a landmark framework for advancing women's rights worldwide.

The event commenced with a welcome speech from Sudhir Muralidharan, Country Manager

of UNOPS Bangladesh, who stated that "Achieving gender equality is not just a goal—it is a necessity for sustainable development. At UNOPS, we are committed to ensuring that all women and girls have the rights, power, and opportunities to shape their own futures. Through inclusive infrastructure, gender-responsive procurement policies, and meaningful partnerships, we provide practical solutions to build a world where no one is left behind."

Dr. Marufa Akter, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Global Studies



H.E. Nina P. Cainglet, Philippines Ambassador to Bangladesh and Sudhir Muralidharan, Country Manager of UNOPS Bangladesh

and Governance at the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences of Independent University, Bangladesh, delivered the keynote speech. She highlighted both progress and persistent challenges in achieving gender equality, particularly in underrepresented sectors. Her presentation focused on actionable strategies to empower

women and girls in leadership and economic participation, reaffirming the need for continued commitment from all sectors to ending gender-based violence and discrimination.

In her closing remarks, Her Excellency Nina P. Cainglet, Philippine Ambassador to Bangladesh, highlighted that

some systemic obstacles are deeply ingrained so all the stakeholders must work together to advocate for policies that promote gender equity. These policies include closing the wage gap, ensuring access to comprehensive healthcare, addressing sexual harassment in the workplace and in society, and creating robust parental leave policies that support both mothers and fathers. Investing in education is also crucial in equipping young girls with skills and knowledge they need to survive in this volatile world.

Ambassador Cainglet also emphasized that women must cultivate mentorship and networking opportunities to share best practices with other women in their respective industries. By fostering environments where women can learn from one another and share their experiences, we create a support system that encourages personal and professional growth, effectively strengthening our collective resolve. Lastly, since the shaping of one's ideals starts at home and continues in school, parents and teachers carry a significant responsibility in ensuring that children grow up with the right mindset and values.



Ambassador with women entrepreneurs from marginalized community

To showcase the artistry and craftsmanship of Filipino women and Bangladeshi marginalized communities, there was a mini-exhibit and a pop-up shop featuring curated products, such as hand-woven fabrics, accessories, purses, and home decor.

Included in the Philippine display were T'nalak cloth made



Participants in Roundtable Seminar

from abacá or Manila hemp, which are natural fibres from the musa textiles banana species that are endemic to the Philippines. The designs are unique, based on the dreams of the T'boli dreamweavers from Lake Sebu.

Ms. Da Ching Ching, an indigenous woman entrepreneur of Finery craft store, stated that “we carry the wisdom of

generations within us. Let us blend our traditional knowledge with modern innovation, creating businesses that are both sustainable and culturally rich, paving the way for a brighter future for indigenous women in Bangladesh.”

Another entrepreneur, Ms. Yasin Ahmed Sokal, stressed that our diversity is our strength



Participants in Roundtable Seminar

and that transwomen entrepreneurs bring unique perspectives and valuable skills to the marketplace. She said, “As a transwoman, my dreams are woven into the fabric of this land, just as my spirit is woven into the tapestry of my being. Let me build my business, let me contribute, let me show the world the strength and beauty of a transwoman entrepreneur.”

As Bangladesh progresses towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), discussions like these play a crucial role in driving gender-responsive policies and inclusive development efforts. The UNOPS, in collaboration with its partners, remains committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls as catalysts for lasting change.

This month’s celebration is a reminder of both our achievements and the work that lies ahead. Every step we take is a step towards a fairer, more just society where every woman can claim her rights and realize her dreams. Here’s to the continued fight for a future where every girl can rise unbounded by her gender. Let us dream big and act courageously, for the sake of every woman and girl in the world.

Philippine Embassy and UNOPS Bangladesh



BANGLADESH'S AGRICULTURAL MARVELS AND PATH TO PROGRESS

Md. Hasinur Rahman

Bangladesh, a land of fertile soil and abundant water resources, has emerged as a global leader in agricultural production. With its rich heritage of farming and continuous advancements in agricultural practices, the country has secured top global rankings in the production of rice, jute, potatoes, tropical fruits, and farmed fish. As Bangladesh progresses towards sustainability and food security, the Plant Protection Wing plays a crucial role in ensuring the health and productivity of crops, safeguarding the nation's agricultural future.

Agricultural Achievements of Bangladesh

Bangladesh has made remarkable strides in agriculture, achieving self-sufficiency in food



Technology to alleviate poverty, strengthen food security, and fight climate change in Bangladesh

production and becoming one of the top 10 global producers of several crops. The sector remains the backbone of the country's economy, employing nearly half of its workforce and contributing significantly to GDP.

Key Achievements:

- **Rice Production:** Bangladesh ranks third globally in rice production, with an estimated output of 38.4 million tonnes. Rice is a staple food for the country's population, and its continued production ensures

national food security.

- **Diversified Crops:** The country is a leading producer of potatoes (7th), tropical fruits (6th), jute (2nd), and farmed fish (5th), reflecting the resilience and adaptability of its agricultural sector.

- **Food Security:** Bangladesh has attained self-sufficiency in rice production, reducing dependency on imports and enhancing national resilience against global food crises.

- **Agricultural Productivity Growth:** The sector has witnessed an impressive

average productivity growth rate of 2.7% per year since 1995, driven by technological advancements, improved seed varieties, and better irrigation techniques.

- **Global Recognition:** The country stands among the top 10 producers of jackfruit, mango, onion, tea, vegetables, potato, and farmed fish, solidifying its position as a powerhouse in agriculture.

Challenges in Agriculture:

Despite these achievements, Bangladesh faces several challenges in sustaining agricultural growth:

- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and frequent floods threaten crop yields and soil fertility.

- **Pest and Disease Outbreaks:** Infestations can cause severe losses in production if not managed properly.

- **Overuse of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides:** While increasing yields, excessive chemical use leads to soil degradation and environmental pollution.

- **Limited Arable Land:** With a growing population, the available land for agriculture is shrinking, requiring more efficient farming techniques.



Agrotech in Bangladesh - Disruption of Traditional Farming By Technology

The Role of the Plant Protection Wing

While Bangladesh continues to advance in agricultural production, plant health remains a critical concern. The Plant Protection Wing, under the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), is responsible for ensuring that crops are protected from pests and diseases, implementing



A Bangladeshi farmer uses a mobile phone while harvesting paddy, highlighting the growing role of digital innovation in agriculture. From weather forecasts to market prices, technology is empowering farmers for a smarter and more efficient future

sustainable pest control methods, and maintaining environmental balance. The wing is instrumental in keeping the country's agriculture sector resilient against pest-related threats.

Key Responsibilities of the Plant Protection Wing:

1. Surveillance and Forecasting:

- Conducting nationwide surveillance on standing crops to detect early signs of pest infestation.
- Forecasting potential outbreaks and taking preemptive action to prevent agricultural losses.
- Using modern technologies like remote sensing, AI-based data analysis, and GIS mapping for pest tracking.

2. Pest and Disease Management:

- Implementing effective and sustainable pest control techniques to protect crops from infestation.
- Advising farmers on appropriate measures when pest infestations reach epidemic levels.
- Deploying bio-control agents to

reduce reliance on chemical pesticides.

3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

- Promoting IPM techniques to reduce dependency on chemical pesticides and encourage eco-friendly practices.
- Encouraging the use of natural predators and organic solutions to control pest populations.

- Training farmers on the benefits of crop rotation, intercropping, and natural pest repellents.

4. Regulation of Pesticides:

- Issuing and renewing licenses for pesticide import, repackaging, formulation, and sales.
- Ensuring quality control of pesticides used in agriculture to minimize toxicological effects on crops and the environment.
- Providing guidelines for the safe and judicious use of pesticides to prevent overuse and contamination.

5. Training and Farmer Awareness Programs:

- Conducting training programs for farmers and extension workers on pest management techniques.
- Organizing workshops to educate farmers about environmentally friendly pest control methods.
- Motivating farmers to adopt bio-pesticides and organic farming practices for long-term sustainability.



Bangladesh has experienced a "blue revolution" in fish farming, particularly with the rise of aquaculture, leading to significant increases in fish production, protein consumption, and economic opportunities, especially in rural areas



Bangladesh farmers turn to floating rafts to grow crops

6. Research and International Collaboration:

- Establishing linkages with national and international organizations for advancements in pest management.
- Collaborating with research institutions to develop innovative pest control methods.
- Participating in global forums to exchange knowledge on plant protection techniques.

7. Environmental Conservation:

- Developing policies that balance pest control with environmental sustainability.
- Promoting alternative farming techniques that reduce carbon footprints and enhance soil health.

- Monitoring pesticide residues in soil and water to ensure safe food production.

Future Prospects and Recommendations

To further strengthen Bangladesh's agricultural resilience, the following measures are recommended:

- Investing in Agri-Tech: Utilizing AI, IoT, and drones for crop monitoring, early pest detection, and precision farming.
- Promoting Sustainable Practices: Encouraging organic farming and reducing dependency on chemical inputs.
- Expanding Farmer Training

Programs: Enhancing knowledge-sharing initiatives to keep farmers updated on modern agricultural techniques.

- Strengthening Research and Development: Increasing funding for agricultural research to develop high-yield, pest-resistant crop varieties.
- Enhancing Market Access: Improving supply chain infrastructure to ensure farmers get fair prices for their produce.

Bangladesh's agricultural sector has shown tremendous growth, proving itself as a key player in global food production.

However, sustaining this success requires vigilance in protecting crops from pests and diseases. The Plant Protection Wing of the DAE plays an instrumental role in safeguarding the nation's agricultural progress by implementing sustainable pest management practices, regulating pesticide use, and fostering farmer awareness. By strengthening these efforts, Bangladesh can continue to thrive as a wonderland of agriculture and progress, ensuring food security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability for generations to come.

Md. Hasinur Rahman

Additional Deputy Director (Pesticide Administration)
Department of Agricultural Extension

IN REMEMBRANCE AND SOLIDARITY: HONORING THE LIVES LOST IN GAZA

We stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Gaza. As the world watches, we cannot remain silent in the face of ongoing injustice, suffering, and violence. Our hearts are with the families who have lost loved ones, with the children deprived of safety, and with the communities struggling for basic human rights.

This march in March 2025 is not only a demonstration of support—it is a call for justice, peace, and accountability. We demand an immediate end to the blockade, the protection of civilians, and the recognition of Gaza's right to live in freedom and dignity.

We march for the voiceless, for the displaced, and for those who continue to resist oppression with courage and hope. Let our presence today echo across borders: Gaza is not alone.

Together, we rise. Together, we demand change. Together, we stand with Gaza.





UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO BANGLADESH: A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

Md Loutful Goni Titu

The Rohingya refugee crisis, one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time, has captured global attention once again following the recent visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to Bangladesh. This visit reaffirmed the international community's commitment to finding long-term solutions for nearly one million displaced Rohingya people, many of whom have been living in makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar since 2017. As Bangladesh continues to shoulder this immense burden, the renewed efforts from global leaders signal a fresh hope for the future of these refugees.

On March 15, 2025, UN Secretary-General António

Guterres, accompanied by Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, visited Cox's Bazar to renew global attention on the Rohingya crisis. His first trip to Bangladesh, which was held from 13-16 March, was marked by empathy and solidarity and ended on a powerful note as he joined an Iftar meal with Rohingya refugees during the holy month of Ramadan.

Mr. Guterres, while breaking fast with the refugees, expressed his deep respect for their faith and culture, saying, "Fasting and having an Iftar together with you are proof of my deep respect for your religion and your culture." He stressed the importance of global solidarity during this sacred time, promising to ensure

that international support for the Rohingya would not diminish, adding, "It would be unacceptable that in the month of solidarity, the international community would reduce the support to the Rohingyas in Bangladesh."

The Geopolitical and Humanitarian Background of the Rohingya Crisis (2017-2025)

The roots of the Rohingya crisis are deep-seated, with decades of marginalization and discrimination suffered by this ethnic minority in Myanmar. The Rohingya, primarily a Muslim community residing in Myanmar's Rakhine State, have long faced persecution from the Myanmar government, which has consistently denied them



UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus (sitting on the stage) listen to Rohingya refugees, reaffirming global support

citizenship, rendering them stateless.

Tensions escalated in August 2017 when the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown on the Rohingya, allegedly in response to insurgent attacks. What followed was a systematic campaign of violence, including mass killings, sexual violence, and the burning of villages, which the UN described as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing.”

By the end of 2017, over 700,000 Rohingya had fled across the border into Bangladesh, seeking refuge in the already overcrowded camps of Cox’s Bazar. The refugee crisis quickly overwhelmed local communities and the Bangladeshi government. Despite its own resource constraints, Bangladesh welcomed the displaced Rohingya, demonstrating extraordinary compassion and solidarity.

Since then, the situation has grown more complex. The influx of refugees has placed immense pressure on Bangladesh’s economy, infrastructure, and natural resources, particularly in the Cox’s Bazar region. Social

tensions have also emerged as local communities, struggling with poverty, bear the burden of hosting such a large population. Yet, Bangladesh has remained committed to providing shelter and protection, with support from the United Nations and various international humanitarian organizations.

History of the Rohingya Repatriation Process

Efforts to repatriate the Rohingya have been ongoing since the early days of the crisis. In 2018, Bangladesh and Myanmar reached an agreement to begin the voluntary repatriation of refugees. However, this process

has been fraught with challenges. Most Rohingya are unwilling to return to Myanmar due to concerns over their safety, lack of citizenship, and the absence of any guarantees that the persecution they fled from will not resume.

The UN, alongside the Bangladeshi government, has maintained that any repatriation must be voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable. Over the years, several attempts to initiate repatriation have stalled due to Myanmar’s failure to create conducive conditions for the Rohingya’s return. Without guarantees of safety, legal rights, and recognition, the refugees remain hesitant to go back to a country that does not acknowledge their existence.

Meanwhile, the support from the UN, international NGOs (INGOs), and the local host community has been pivotal in addressing the refugees’ immediate needs. UN agencies such as UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), and UNICEF have provided vital assistance in the form of food, shelter, education, and healthcare. International and local NGOs have played a key role in managing the



UN Secretary-General joins an Iftar meal with Rohingya refugees, emphasizing solidarity and commitment



Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus

camps, providing protection services, and supporting vulnerable groups, including women and children. Despite these efforts, conditions in the camps remain dire, with overcrowding, limited access to services, and growing concerns over security and human trafficking.

The UN Secretary-General's Visit and Renewed Global Commitment

During his visit, the Secretary-General toured the refugee camps, met with Rohingya families, and listened to their stories of loss, fear, and uncertainty. He expressed his deep solidarity with the refugees, acknowledging the immense sacrifices made by both the displaced Rohingya and the local Bangladeshi communities hosting them. His visit was a powerful reminder that the Rohingya crisis remains a global humanitarian priority.

In his public address, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the UN's unwavering commitment to advocating for justice for the Rohingya. He called on the international community to

increase its financial support for humanitarian efforts in Cox's Bazar, emphasizing that Bangladesh should not bear the burden alone. The Secretary-General also renewed calls for Myanmar to take responsibility for the atrocities committed against the Rohingya and to create safe conditions for their voluntary repatriation.

Among his key announcements was a multi-million-dollar humanitarian aid package dedicated to improving living conditions in the camps. This

package includes expanded education programs for Rohingya children, enhanced healthcare facilities, and increased food security measures. The UN's efforts, however, are not limited to immediate humanitarian relief; the Secretary-General stressed the importance of long-term solutions, including sustainable development programs to benefit both the refugees and the host communities.

The Role of Dr. Muhammad Yunus

During this visit, Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, now Chief Advisor to Bangladesh's Interim Government, played a key role in addressing the Rohingya crisis. While globally recognized for his groundbreaking work in microfinance, Yunus has long been an advocate for justice and sustainable solutions for refugees. As he stood alongside UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Yunus reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to supporting the Rohingya, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable livelihood programs.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres



Over one million Rohingya refugees continue to live in overcrowded camps, awaiting a lasting solution (File photo: Rohingya influx in August 2017)

"We need sustained international efforts for Rohingya humanitarian operations and their eventual repatriation to Myanmar, with safety, dignity, and full rights," Dr. Yunus stated, calling for an end to the long-standing crisis. He further highlighted the importance of economic empowerment for the refugees, proposing innovative programs that would incorporate them into ethical supply chains and small-scale businesses within the camps. "Empowering refugees with livelihoods not only helps them become self-reliant but also reduces their dependency on aid, fostering dignity and hope."

Dr. Yunus' forward-thinking approach underscores a commitment to finding long-term solutions that benefit both the refugees and the host community, with his leadership signaling a renewed push for justice and tangible change. "Now is the time to translate these pledges into action," he emphasized, promising joint efforts with the UN for safe Rohingya repatriation by next year.

A Renewed Focus on Safe Repatriation

A key element of the Secretary-General's visit was the renewed commitment to ensuring that the Rohingya can eventually return to their homeland in Myanmar. The UN has consistently maintained that repatriation must be voluntary, safe, and dignified. To this end, the Secretary-General announced increased diplomatic pressure on Myanmar to ensure that conditions for the Rohingya's safe return are met. The Bangladesh government, while continuing to provide refuge, has expressed its determination to ensure that the Rohingya are eventually repatriated in a lawful and orderly manner. Bangladesh has been steadfast in its calls for Myanmar to recognize the rights of the Rohingya and create a pathway to citizenship, which remains one of the central obstacles to their safe return.

In the meantime, Bangladesh is working with the international community to support the refugees as they await a resolution. Efforts are being made to resettle some refugees on Bhasan Char, an island where the government has built new infrastructure to ease overcrowding in Cox's Bazar. Although controversial, this plan aims to provide better living conditions while long-term solutions are pursued.

Conclusion: A Hopeful Path Forward

The visit of the UN Secretary-General has brought renewed global focus to the Rohingya crisis and reaffirmed the international community's commitment to finding a lasting solution. While the road ahead remains challenging, Bangladesh's government, with the support of the UN and global partners, is determined to ensure the safe and lawful repatriation of the Rohingya to Myanmar.

As the world watches, it is clear that Bangladesh cannot address this crisis alone. The international community must continue to provide financial support, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic pressure to ensure that the Rohingya receive justice and the chance to rebuild their lives in peace. The hope remains that through collective action, the suffering of the Rohingya will one day come to an end, and they will be able to return home with dignity and security.

Md Loutful Goni Titu
Advisor
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Eid Mubarak!

May this Eid al-Fitr bring peace, joy, and meaningful moments to you and your loved ones.

Together, as part of the Diplomats family, let us continue to celebrate unity and understanding.

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INVEST IN EMERGING BANGLADESH AND READINESS

Dr. Khandoker Azizul Islam

Bangladesh has emerged as a compelling investment destination, offering a highly competitive environment for foreign direct investment (FDI) in South Asia. The country has successfully nurtured a robust and liberal investment climate, providing investors with significant incentives, a skilled workforce, and a strategic location. The government's commitment to fostering economic growth is

evident through its consistent efforts to improve the business environment and attract foreign capital.

One of the key highlights of Bangladesh's investment climate is its liberal FDI regime. Foreign investors can fully own their ventures in most sectors, and the country offers an unrestricted exit policy. This flexibility ensures that businesses are able to

operate with autonomy and confidence. Bangladesh's competitive wages and low energy costs further enhance its appeal, allowing companies to significantly reduce production costs compared to neighboring countries. This cost advantage, combined with a range of attractive incentives, makes Bangladesh a highly competitive location for investment.



Welcoming global investors with liberal FDI policies that foster a business-friendly environment

The country's incentive packages are among the most generous in South Asia. Foreign investors benefit from reduced import duties on capital machinery (1%) and spare parts (3%), as well as a bonded warehousing facility for export-oriented industries. In addition, the government offers cash incentives and export subsidies ranging from 5% to 20% of the Free on Board (FOB) value for selected products, alongside a corporate tax holiday of 5 to 10 years for certain sectors. These incentives, combined with an accelerated depreciation allowance on machinery, are designed to provide long-term value for investors. Furthermore, Bangladesh's membership in bilateral tax treaties ensures the avoidance of double taxation, while tariff concessions on raw materials support the competitiveness of export-oriented industries.

Strategically located at the crossroads of South Asia, Bangladesh offers unrivaled access to a market of 3 billion consumers across neighboring countries, with reduced tariff barriers facilitating trade. Its proximity to key global markets, including the North America and European Union,

enhances the country's attractiveness as a regional hub for trade and investment. The strong local market and steady economic growth provide a solid foundation for businesses to thrive, while macroeconomic stability, backed by consistent policy reforms, offers a predictable environment for investment.

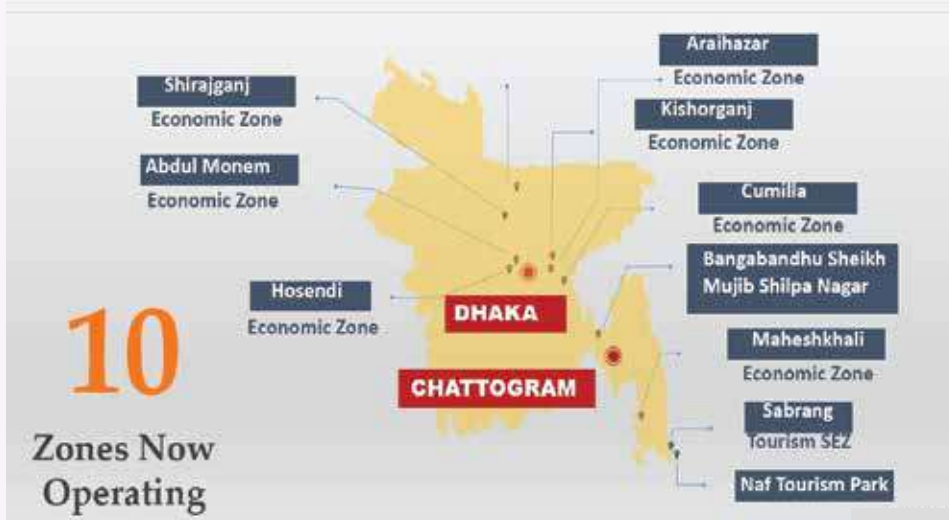
Among the key sectors attracting foreign investment in Bangladesh are agro-based industries, textiles and garments, plastics, jute and jute products, information and communication technology (ICT), pharmaceuticals, light engineering, medical equipment, healthcare, and leather goods. These sectors not only align with global demand trends but also leverage Bangladesh's abundant natural resources and skilled labour force, further enhancing the country's competitive edge.

The government has undertaken significant reform



Simplifying business setup with Bangladesh's One Stop Service OSS for seamless investment processes

Economic Zones of Bangladesh



activities to improve the business climate, with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) playing a pivotal role. The

introduction of the One Stop Service (OSS) portal has simplified the investment process by allowing investors to access 133 services from 44

organizations through a single window. This initiative streamlines regulatory procedures, making it easier for both foreign and local investors to establish and operate businesses in Bangladesh. In addition, the Bangladesh Investment Climate Improvement Program (BICIP), a home-grown reform model, focuses on key areas such as business entry and exit, industrial infrastructure, cross-border trade, dispute resolution, tax regime, and access to finance. With the implementation of 44 reforms in fiscal year 2023-24, and more planned for the next fiscal year, Bangladesh is continuously enhancing its investment attractiveness.

Japanese Companies in Bangladesh

115 Companies registered in BIDA with **\$ 850 MILL** Investment Proposal

Logos shown:

- Sumitomo
- JTI
- Marubeni
- Honda
- Mitsubishi Motors
- T&K TOKA
- Denzai
- Ajinomoto
- Monstarlab

In conclusion, Bangladesh offers a dynamic and investor-friendly environment, characterised by its competitive incentives, low operational costs, and a wealth of opportunities across diverse sectors. The country's ongoing reforms and commitment to improving the ease of doing business make it an ideal destination for both long-term investment and strategic regional expansion.

Dr. Khandoker Azizul Islam
Executive Member
Foreign Investment Wing, Bida



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THE DAY BANGLADESH STOOD STRONG: REMEMBERING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF SOVEREIGN BANGLADESH

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

March 26, 1971: The Dawn of a Nation's Bravery

The journey toward Bangladesh's independence was marked by a long history of political, social, and economic exploitation. After the partition of British India in 1947, East Bengal (later East Pakistan) became part of Pakistan. However, the two wings—West Pakistan and East Pakistan—were separated not just by geography but by a widening divide in terms of governance, economic opportunity, and cultural identity. For nearly 24 years, East Pakistan faced systemic discrimination, which fueled a growing sense of

resentment and a yearning for independence among its people.

The Seeds of Discontent (1947-1971)

The socio-political landscape of Pakistan was marred by inequality from the outset. West Pakistan dominated the government, the military, and the economy, while the people of East Pakistan—primarily Bengalis—were left marginalized. Despite East Pakistan contributing a majority of the country's exports through its lucrative jute industry, the economic benefits flowed disproportionately to the

western wing. Industrialization and development projects were heavily concentrated in West Pakistan, while East Pakistan remained largely agrarian and underdeveloped.

Culturally, the Bengali language and identity were consistently undermined. This was epitomized by the infamous 1948 attempt to impose Urdu as the sole national language, sparking mass protests across East Pakistan. The language movement, which culminated in the tragic deaths of students on February 21, 1952, was an early indication of the simmering



Freedom fighters of Bangladesh Liberation war

unrest. Bengali culture and heritage were inseparable from the people's identity, and attempts to suppress it only deepened their resolve to assert their rights.

Politically, the situation worsened in the 1960s when the central government in West Pakistan failed to acknowledge the legitimate aspirations of the Bengali people. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman emerged as the leader of the Bengali nationalist movement, advocating for greater autonomy for East Pakistan through his Six-Point Movement.

The 1970 general elections proved to be a turning point: the Awami League, led by Mujib, won a landslide victory, securing a majority in the national assembly. However, the ruling elites in West Pakistan were unwilling to transfer power, seeing it as a threat to their dominance.

This refusal to respect democratic norms set the stage for a final confrontation. The situation reached a boiling point in early 1971, with protests and strikes intensifying in East

Pakistan. What followed was a brutal military crackdown that would forever change the course of history.

Operation Searchlight: The Night of Terror (March 25, 1971)

On the night of March 25, 1971, the Pakistani military launched Operation Searchlight, a calculated and ruthless assault aimed at crushing the growing nationalist movement in East Pakistan. The military action targeted Dhaka and other major cities, with a particular focus on suppressing student activists, intellectuals, and political leaders.

The horrors of that night remain etched in the collective memory of the Bengali people. University dormitories were attacked, with students and teachers massacred indiscriminately. The Jagannath Hall massacre at Dhaka University was one of the worst chilling examples of the army's brutality, where unarmed civilians were gunned down in cold blood. Across the city, homes were raided, and entire neighbourhoods were set ablaze.

But instead of extinguishing the flames of resistance, the violence only strengthened the people's resolve. March 26, 1971, became the day when the people of East Pakistan, soon to be Bangladesh, stood united in defiance of an oppressive regime. Ordinary citizens, from students to farmers, took up arms to resist the occupation forces.

The People's War: A Nation's Unyielding Courage

The war for independence had begun, and the people of Bangladesh were not going to



A child carries the flag of the newly born Bangladesh as he moves with his family during the Liberation War in 1971



Freedom fighters (Mukti Bahini) stood strong against a powerful military force with sheer courage and determination

back down. What initially started as scattered resistance quickly grew into a full-scale liberation movement. The Mukti Bahini, or Liberation Forces, was formed, and composed of both trained soldiers and civilian volunteers. Despite facing one of the most powerful armies in the region, the people of Bangladesh fought with sheer determination and ingenuity.

In cities like Dhaka, Chattogram, and Rajshahi, civilians turned the urban landscape into a battlefield. Makeshift barricades were erected, and guerrilla tactics were employed to disrupt the military's operations. Across rural Bangladesh, the resistance was even more effective. The local population, familiar with the terrain, used ambushes and sabotage to harass and weaken the Pakistani Army. Bridges were destroyed, supply lines were cut off, and communication networks were disrupted, making it increasingly difficult for the occupation forces to maintain control.

Women played a critical role in the struggle for independence,

often at great personal risk. Some took up arms and joined the Mukti Bahini, while others worked as informants or nurses. They provided shelter to freedom fighters and helped smuggle weapons and supplies. Their contribution to the war effort remains one of the most inspiring aspects of Bangladesh's fight for freedom.

Then Major Ziaur Rahman, who was then stationed in Chattogram, made the first formal declaration of independence on 26 March 1971, further galvanizing the



Women played a vital role in the war by providing medical care, intelligence, and even fighting on the battlefield

people's resistance. After that, the whole nation befall into an all-out war against the barbarian West Pakistani Armed Forces.

It was like the uneven battle of good and evil, like - swords vs guns, like - "David vs Goliath." But the resilience and perseverance of the people of Bangladesh were so strong, that they were determined to sacrifice their lives just to attain the cherished independence and well-justified sovereignty.

The Road to Victory: December 16, 1971

The war for independence lasted nine long months, with immense sacrifices made by the people of Bangladesh. The Pakistani Military, though superior in terms of firepower, was unable to break the spirit of the Bengali people. The atrocities committed by the occupation forces, including mass killings and the systematic targeting of intellectuals and minorities, only fueled the determination to fight on.

The international community eventually began to take notice.



Major Ziaur Rahman's radio announcement from Chattogram Radio Station sparked nationwide resistance

By late 1971, India, under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, intervened militarily in support of the Bengali liberation movement. The combined efforts of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian Armed Forces led to a decisive victory over the Pakistani Forces. On December 16, 1971, Dhaka

fell, and Bangladesh was born as a free and independent nation.

The Legacy of March 26: A Stepping Stone to Nationhood

March 26, 1971, marks the beginning of Bangladesh's journey toward freedom, but it also symbolizes much more. It is



The streets of Dhaka erupted with joy as Bangladesh achieved victory and independence on December 16, 1971

a day that honours the courage and sacrifice of countless individuals who fought not just for independence but for the right to exist as a nation with dignity and justice.

In the years since, Bangladesh has faced many challenges, from political instability to economic hardship. Yet, the spirit of March 26 continues to inspire its people. Independence Day remains a reminder that the nation was built on the principles of resilience, unity, and an unwavering belief in the right to self-determination.

In recent times, especially during the July uprising of 2024, the same spirit of defiance and resistance against oppression came to the forefront once again. The memory of the Liberation War and the sacrifices of 1971 serve as a powerful motivator for future generations to protect their hard-earned freedom.

As Bangladesh moves forward, March 26 stands as a symbol of hope, a reminder that even in the face of overwhelming odds, the will of the people can prevail. Today, the nation looks back on its history with pride, knowing that the bravery shown on that day laid the foundation for the People's Republic of Bangladesh—an independent, sovereign country with its own identity, culture, and aspirations for a better future.

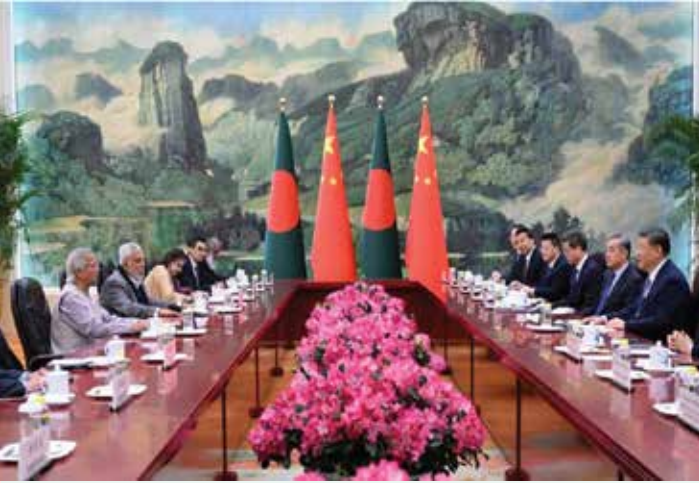
Lutfun Nahar Taposhi
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RICKSHAWS: DHAKA'S MOBILE ART

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.



CHIEF ADVISER MUHAMMAD YUNUS VISITS CHINA, MEETS PRESIDENT XI JINPING, AND STRENGTHENS BILATERAL TIES



In a warm and productive meeting, both leaders discussed all areas of bilateral cooperation. President Xi welcomed Bangladesh's interim government and reaffirmed China's strong commitment to support its development journey, including continuing 100% DFQF access until 2028 and relocating Chinese industries to Bangladesh.

Marking 50 years of diplomatic ties, China pledged deeper political trust, enhanced infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, and greater economic collaboration, including in agriculture, digital connectivity, green economy, and river management.

Chief Adviser Yunus also engaged with Chinese business leaders, attended three high-level roundtables, and received an honorary doctorate from Peking University, where he addressed faculty and students.

Hon'ble Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, visited China to attend the Bo'ao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 in Hainan on 26 March and held a bilateral meeting with Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping in Beijing on 28 March.

UN CHIEF ANTÓNIO GUTERRES WARNS OF "UNMITIGATED DISASTER" DURING 2025 RAMADAN VISIT TO ROHINGYA CAMPS IN COX'S BAZAR



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres made a special Ramadan Solidarity Visit to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh—home to the world's largest refugee settlement.

During his visit, the UN Chief expressed grave concern over the recent and projected cuts in international financial assistance, warning that such

reductions could have devastating consequences for both the Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi host communities.

"The announced cuts in financial assistance are putting us at risk of having only a fraction of the resources needed to support Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi communities hosting them here," Guterres stated. "People would suffer. People would die. It would be an unmitigated disaster."

He called on the international community to urgently step up its support and fulfill its moral and humanitarian obligations to avoid a worsening crisis.

The Secretary-General's visit underscored the need for sustained global solidarity during the holy month of Ramadan and beyond, as Bangladesh continues to shoulder a disproportionate burden in sheltering over a million displaced Rohingya from Myanmar.

AUSTRALIA AND BANGLADESH REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO STRONGER TRADE, EDUCATION, AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN INDO-PACIFIC



In a display of deepening bilateral relations, the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Foreign Adviser to the Interim Government, Mr. Touhid Hossain. The meeting, held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, reflected the shared vision of both nations to foster a stronger and more strategic partnership across a range of priority sectors.

The Australian High Commissioner expressed sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended by the Interim Government and the people of Bangladesh, noting the deep-rooted friendship and growing mutual respect between the two countries.

Discussions during the meeting highlighted several key areas of collaboration. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trade and investment relations, recognizing the untapped potential in sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, education, and digital technology. Australia reiterated its support for Bangladesh's development goals, particularly in line with Vision 2041 and its transition to a knowledge-based economy.

The conversation also underscored the importance of leveraging Australia's world-class expertise in technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Opportunities to enhance capacity-building, skills development, and institutional partnerships were explored, especially to equip Bangladesh's youth with the tools needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Regional and geopolitical challenges featured prominently in the discussions, with both parties emphasizing the need for cooperative responses to shared concerns. The ongoing humanitarian crisis stemming from the displacement of the Rohingya population was acknowledged as a pressing issue. Australia appreciated Bangladesh's generosity in hosting over a million Rohingya refugees and assured its continued humanitarian support and diplomatic engagement on the matter.

Maritime security was another critical area of focus, with both sides emphasizing the importance of ensuring a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. They agreed on the need for closer cooperation to safeguard regional stability, enhance maritime domain awareness, and combat transnational threats.

The meeting concluded on a constructive and forward-looking note, with both the Australian High Commissioner and the Foreign Adviser expressing optimism about the future of Australia-Bangladesh relations. They pledged to continue working together to build a safe, prosperous, and free Indo-Pacific region through sustained dialogue, mutual respect, and shared strategic interests.

UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR AMBASSADOR MARCELO VAZQUEZ-BERMUDEZ MET BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN SECRETARY AMBASSADOR MD JASHIM UDDIN



UNHCR Executive Committee Chair Ambassador Marcelo Vazquez-Bermudez met Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Ambassador Md Jashim Uddin. They discussed the Rohingya crisis highlighting funding shortages, Myanmar's political situation, the UN Secretary-General's recent visit, and efforts for repatriation. They emphasized on the urgent need for enhanced international support to effectively address the crisis.

The Foreign Secretary emphasized Bangladesh's continuous diplomatic efforts. He highlighted the strain on host communities and called for greater global cooperation, stressing Bangladesh's commitment to repatriation of the Rohingyas. He hoped that the upcoming High-Level Conference under the aegis of the UN would offer innovative solutions.

Ambassador Bermudez commended Bangladesh's generosity in hosting such a large number of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) and acknowledged probable impact of funding shortages. He assured that UNHCR and its partners would continue supporting Bangladesh, including through the upcoming High-Level Conference.

As part of his visit, the UNHCR Executive Committee Chair will travel to the Rohingya camps to witness the situation firsthand.

ASEAN SPECIAL ENVOY ON MYANMAR DISCUSSES ROHINGYA CRISIS WITH BANGLADESH FOREIGN ADVISER



H.E. Tan Sri Othman Hashim, Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Adviser for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Md. Touhid Hossain at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After exchanging greetings, the Special Envoy sought Bangladesh's views, insights and comments on that matter.

The Foreign Adviser congratulated the Special Envoy on his appointment and expressed hope that his tenure as chair would usher in new avenues to resolve the crisis. He informed that Bangladesh is positively considering

assisting an UN-led humanitarian assistance programme in Rakhine in the face of impending famine, which may contribute to stability in Rakhine State. He highlighted the necessity of early repatriation of the FDMNs with agreed right and security.

The Hon'ble Adviser urged the need for urgent action to prepare a comprehensive Rohingya Repatriation Roadmap involving Myanmar, ASEAN members, the UN, and donor countries. He highlighted that ASEAN nations are the sufferers of the FDMN crisis after Bangladesh. Therefore, more coordinated efforts from ASEAN may contribute to resolve the challenges of Repatriation.

The Special Envoy conveyed ASEAN's strong commitment for resolving the crisis and assured that he would make a coordinated effort toward this goal. He agreed that the crisis has gone beyond boundaries and highlighted ASEAN's ongoing humanitarian assistance efforts in Myanmar. He also emphasized that ASEAN nations, like Bangladesh, are also affected by the crisis which needs to be resolved through cooperation in all possible ways.

ANTONIO ALESSANDRO, AMBASSADOR OF ITALY TO BANGLADESH PAID A COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY MD. JASHIM UDDIN



During a recent discussion, the Foreign Secretary raised concerns regarding the backlog of visa applications, particularly for aspiring migrant workers. He emphasized that delays in visa issuance could lead to the expiration or cancellation of work permits (NullaOstas), causing significant financial, social, and psychological distress to applicants and their families. He urged the Italian Ambassador, Alessandro, to take necessary measures to resolve the visa gridlock promptly.

In response, Ambassador Alessandro acknowledged the concerns and informed that, under a new law enacted by the Italian Government on 11 October 2024, all NullaOstas issued to Bangladeshi citizens until 22 October 2024 have been suspended. Consequently, the Embassy decided to return travel documents to applicants while keeping their applications open until their NullaOstas are confirmed or rejected.

The Ambassador clarified that the re-examination of NullaOstas is exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Immigration Authority in Italy, and the Embassy has no authority to intervene in the process. He also noted that visa processing may exceed 90 days due to administrative controls under Italy's 'Flow Decree.' He assured that the expiration dates of NullaOstas have been frozen due to the suspension and pledged to convey the concerns to relevant Italian authorities.

STRENGTHENING UN-BANGLADESH TIES: HIGH-LEVEL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS SHARED COMMITMENT



Hon'ble Foreign Adviser H.E. Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain and H.E. Dr. Khalilur Rahman, High Representative of the Chief Adviser on Rohingya Issue and Priority Matters, called on UN Secretary-General H.E. Mr. António Guterres in Dhaka.

The UN Secretary-General is visiting Bangladesh from 13-16 March 2025 as part of his Ramadan Solidarity Visit.

During the meeting, they discussed key issues, including the Rohingya crisis, ongoing reforms, human rights, peace and security, and UN-Bangladesh cooperation.

The Government of Bangladesh remains committed to strengthening its partnership with the United Nations in addressing global and regional challenges.

AMBASSADOR SAIDA ATTENDED THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF JAMUNA RAIL BRIDGE

On March 18, Ambassador SAIDA Shinichi attended the inaugural ceremony of newly constructed Jamuna Rail Bridge in Bhupur, Tangail. Together with Mr Md Fahimul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Railways and Mr ITO Teruyuki, Director General of South Asia Department, JICA headquarters as well as the representatives of the construction project team, contractors and consultants, he celebrated the completion of this Japan's major ODA project. The bridge will contribute to enhance the connectivity, and be instrumental for the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative under which Bangladesh plays a node and hub role in the regional as well as inter-regional affairs.

BANGLADESH AND NEPAL REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari called on the Hon'ble Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador of Nepal handed over a letter from the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Nepal addressed to the Hon'ble Foreign Adviser.

During the call on, there was discussions on different issues of mutual interest including trade, commerce, energy and climate change. Hon'ble Foreign Affairs Adviser emphasized on the importance of further enhancing engagements between the two countries across various sectors.

Significance of strengthening regional cooperation through SAARC and BIMSTEC was also highlighted.

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