

RESTRICTED

**COMMAND AND STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE
BANGLADESH AIR FORCE**



Individual Staff Studies Programme (ISSP)

**NATIONAL AFFAIRS
PHASE -5 : PART-I**

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

NATIONAL AFFAIRS
PHASE-5 : PART-I

First Edition : Jan 2012

Prepared by : **Gp Capt Md Shafiqul Alam, psc, GD(N)**
Wg Cdr M Humayun Nasir, psc, GD(P)

Approved vide Air HQ/10066/Air Trg//Vol-46/64A Date 18 Jan 2011.

i
RESTRICTED

CONTENTS

Ser No	Topic	Page No
1.	Conduct of the Phase	iii
2.	Introduction to the Phase	iv
3.	Bangladesh and its Approach to Development	1
4.	Liberation War 1971	11
5.	Digitization of Bangladesh : Vision 2021	21
6.	Foreign Policy of Bangladesh	31
7.	Micro credit in Bangladesh	39
8.	Peace Keeping Mission and Bangladesh	41
9.	Disaster Management and Bangladesh	45
10.	Warrant of Precedence	51
11.	NGO in Bangladesh	61
12.	Peace Accord : A New Era in CHT	67

RESTRICTED

CONDUCT OF THE PHASE

Ser No	Topic		Pd Distr	Total Pd
1.	Bangladesh and its approach to development			5
	Sub Topic	History of Bangladesh	1	
		Geography, Demography, Climate Flora and Fauna	1	
		Different approach to development	3	
2.	Liberation War 1971			5
	Sub Topic	Background	1	
		Phases of Liberation war	2	
		Involvement of other countries	1	
		Independence	1	
3.	Digitization of Bangladesh : Vision 2021			5
	Sub Topic	Preface	1	
		Salient points and Manifesto	4	
4.	Foreign policy of Bangladesh			5
	Sub Topic	Introduction and Mechanism of Foreign Policy	2	
		Policy and its Implication	3	
5.	Microcredit in Bangladesh			5
	Sub Topic	Definition	1	
		Different Policies	3	
		Strength and weaknesses	1	
6.	Peace keeping Mission and Bangladesh			
		Peace Keeping Operation and its Types	2	6
		Bangladesh involvement in peace keeping operation	4	
7.	Disaster Management and Bangladesh			6
	Sub Topic	Natural Disasters in Bangladesh	1	
		Disaster Management Practices, Policies and Mechanism	2	
		Comprehensive Disaster Management Program	3	
8.	Warrant of precedence			2
	Sub Topic	Introduction	2	
		Warrant of Precedence in Different Countries		
		Warrant of Precedence in Bangladesh		
9.	Role of NGO in Bangladesh			5
	Sub Topic	Different NGOs in Bangladesh	2	
		NGOs Role in Developing the Socio-economic Condition	2	
		Govt Regulations about NGO	1	
10.	CHT and peace treaty			4
	Sub Topic	CHT history and demography	1	
		Attempted effort and Peace Accord of 1997	2	
		Progress of the Peace Treaty	1	
11.	Revision and writing TAE paper			12

Total Period = 60

INTRODUCTION TO THE PHASE

1. BAF officers are expected to keep themselves abreast with the current happenings of the world. As a responsible citizen of the country besides national affairs one is also expected to be aware on the international affairs. With this aim in mind the National and International Affairs Phases have been incorporated in the ISSC.

2. The National Affairs phase has been preparation with the National Issues. An attempt has been taken to add some new topics on burning issues like Introduction to Bangladesh and its Approach to Development, Liberation War 1971, Digitization of Bangladesh : Vision 2021, Foreign Policy of Bangladesh, Micro Credit in Bangladesh, Peace Keeping Mission and Bangladesh, Disaster Management and Bangladesh, Warrant of Precedence, Role of NGO in Bangladesh & CHT and Peace Treaty etc. These are certainly the topics of considerable significance to be studied by our new generation officers. Here it is important to note that the current affairs cannot be consolidated in an exhaustive manner as every event of this subject keeps on changing so frequently. So, the student officers are expected to keep themselves abreast with the every change on the topics in particular and other current affairs in general. To this end, developing a habit of reading newspapers, periodicals, journals etc is of paramount importance.

3. Student officers are strongly advised to treat this phase note as a guide line only. The facts of most of the topics are learned by comprehensive study of innumerable news papers and magazine though some topics are taken from specific resources. This phase note is not exhaustive by itself. You are, therefore, expected to read newspapers and periodicals to keep yourself abreast with the current affairs. You are also advised to read articles/publication related to the Topics for more information. This phase needs regular updates as the situation on the different issue are subjected to change. The students are also advised to highlight the latest information on the issues during the examination.

TOPIC-1

BANGLADESH AND ITS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT
HISTORY OF BANGLADESH

Background

1. Officially the **People's Republic of Bangladesh** (Bangla: গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ Gonoprojatontri Bangladesh) is a country in South Asia. It is bordered by India on all sides except for a small border with Burma (Myanmar) to the far southeast and by the Bay of Bengal to the south. Together with the Indian state of West Bengal, it makes up the ethno-linguistic region of Bengal. The name Bangladesh means "Country of Bengal" in the official Bengali language.

2. The **history of Bengal** includes modern day Bangladesh and West Bengal, dates back four millennia. To some extent, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers separated it from the mainland of India, though at times, Bengal has played an important role in the history of India. The exact origin of the word Bangla or Bengal is unknown, though it is believed to be derived from the Dravidian-speaking tribe Bang/Banga that settled in the area around the year 1000 BCE.

Pre-historic Bengal

3. Stone age tools dating back 20,000 years have been excavated in the state. Remnants of Copper Age settlements in the Bengal region date back 4,000 years. Stone tools provide the earliest evidence of human settlements. Prehistoric stone implements have been discovered in various parts of West Bengal in the districts of Midnapur, Bankura and Burdwan, and also at Sagardighi. But it is difficult to determine, even approximately, the time when people using them first settled in Bengal. It might have taken place ten thousand years (or even more) ago. The original settlers spoke non-Aryan languages— they may have spoken Austric or Austro-Asiatic languages like the languages of the present-day Kola, Bhil, Santal, Shabara, and Pulinda peoples.

Bengal in early literature

4. Some references indicate that the primitive people in Bengal were different in ethnicity and culture from the Vedic people beyond the boundary of Aryandom and who were classed as "Dasyus". The Bhagavata Purana classes them as sinful people while Dharmasutra of Baudhayana prescribes expiatory rites after a journey among the Pundras and Vangas. Mahabharata speaks of Paundraka Vasudeva who was lord of the Pundras and who allied himself with Jarasandha against Krishna. The Mahabharata also speaks of Bengali kings called Chitrasena and Sanudrasena who were defeated by Bhima and Kalidasa mentions Raghu defeating a coalition of Vanga kings.

Proto-History

5. Mahasthangarh is the oldest archaeological site in Bangladesh. It dates back to 700 BCE and was the ancient capital of the Pundra Kingdom. Hindu scriptures such as the Mahabharata suggest that ancient Bengal was divided among various tribes or kingdoms, including the Nishadas and kingdoms known as the Janapadas: Vanga (southern Bengal), Pundra (northern Bengal), and Suhma (western Bengal) according to their respective totems. These Hindu sources, written by Indo-Aryans in what is now Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, suggest that the peoples of Bengal were not Indo-Aryans. However, Jain scriptures identify Vanga and Anga in Bengal as Indo-Aryan. While western Bengal, as part of Magadha, became part of the Indo-Aryan civilization by the 7th century BCE, the Nanda Dynasty was the first historical state to unify all of Bengal under Indo-Aryan rule.

Overseas Colonization

6. The Vanga Kingdom was a powerful seafaring nation of Ancient India. They had overseas trade relations with Java, Sumatra and Siam (modern day Thailand). According to Mahavamsa, the Vanga prince Vijaya Simha conquered Lanka (modern day Sri Lanka) in 544 BC and gave the name "Sinhala" to the country. Bengali people migrated to the Malay Archipelago and Siam (in modern Thailand), establishing their own colonies there.

Gangaridai Empire

7. Though north and west Bengal were part of the Magadhan empire southern Bengal thrived and became powerful with her overseas trades. In 326 BCE, with the invasion of Alexander the Great the region again came to prominence. The Greek and Latin historians suggested that Alexander the Great withdrew from India anticipating the valiant counter attack of the mighty Gangaridai empire that was located in the Bengal region. Alexander, after the meeting with his officer, Coenus, was convinced that it was better to return. Diodorus Siculus mentions Gangaridai to be the most powerful empire in India whose king possessed an army of 20,000 horses, 200,000 infantry, 2,000 chariots and 4,000 elephants trained and equipped for war. The allied forces of Gangaridai Empire and Nanda Empire (Prasii) were preparing a massive counter attack against the forces of Alexander on the banks of Ganges. Gangaridai according to the Greek accounts kept on flourishing at least up to the 1st century AD.

Early Middle Ages

8. The pre-Gupta period of Bengal is shrouded with obscurity. Before the conquest of Samudragupta Bengal was divided into two kingdoms: Pushkarana and Samatata. An inscription of Pushkaranadhipa (the ruler of Pushkarana) Chandravarman has been found in a cave in the Shushunia hills. Chandragupta II had defeated a confederacy of Vanga kings resulting in Bengal becoming part of the Gupta Empire.

Gauda Kingdom

9. By the 6th century, the Gupta Empire, which ruled over the northern Indian subcontinent had largely broken up. Eastern Bengal splintered into the kingdoms of Vanga, Samatata and Harikela while the Gauda kings rose in the west with their capital at Karnasuvarna (near modern Murshidabad). Shashanka, a vassal of the last Gupta Empire proclaimed independent and unified the smaller principalities of Bengal (Gaur, Vanga, Samatata) and vied for regional power with Harshavardhana in northern India. But this burst of Bengali power did not last very long beyond his death, as with the overthrow of Manava (his son) Bengal descended into a period marked by disunity and foreign invasion once more.

Pala Dynasty

10. Pala Empire was the first independent Buddhist dynasty of Bengal. The name Pala (Modern Bengali: পাল pal) means protector and was used as an ending to the names of all Pala monarchs. The Pals were followers of the Mahayana and Tantric schools of Buddhism. Gopala was the first ruler from the dynasty. He came to power in 750 in Gaur by a democratic election. This event is recognized as one of the first democratic elections in South Asia since the time of the Maha Janapadas. He reigned from 750-770 and consolidated his position by extending his control over all of Bengal. The Buddhist dynasty lasted for four centuries (750-1120 AD) and ushered in a period of stability and prosperity in Bengal. They created many temples and works of art as well as supported the Universities of Nalanda and Vikramashila. Somapura Mahavihara built by Dharmapala is the greatest Buddhist Vihara in the Indian Subcontinent.

Sena Dynasty

11. The Palas were followed by the Sena dynasty who brought Bengal under one ruler during the 12th century. Vijay Sen the second ruler of this dynasty defeated the last Pala emperor Madanapala and established his reign. Ballal Sena introduced caste system in Bengal and made Nabadwip the capital. The fourth king of this dynasty Lakshman Sen expanded the empire beyond Bengal to Bihar, Assam, Orissa and probably to Varanasi. Lakshman was later defeated by the Muslims and fled to eastern Bengal where he ruled few more years. The Sena dynasty brought a revival of Hinduism and cultivated Sanskrit literature in India. It is believed by some Bengali authors that Jayadeva, the famous Sanskrit poet and author of Gita Govinda, was one of the Pancharatnas (meaning 5 gems) in the court of Lakshman Sen.

Medieval Bengal

12. The Muslim invasion of India (including Bengal) came in the early 13th century. The invaders under the leadership of Ikhtiar Uddin Muhammad Bin Bakhtiyar Khilji, defeated the Sena king Lakshman Sena at his capital, Nabadwip in 1203 or 1204. The Deva dynasty—the last Hindu dynasty to rule in Bengal — ruled briefly in eastern Bengal, although they were suppressed by the mid-14th century. Hindu bengali kingdoms continued to exist in the eastern and southern parts of bengal till the 1450s. After the 1450s, they were overwhelmed by the Turkish attacks. Only Koch kingdom in Northern Bengal could resist the Turkish and the Afghan attacks through the 16th and the 17th centuries and could also weather the Mughals till the advent of the British. Hindu political power was thus, henceforth, limited to chieftainships and baron ships under Muslim kings-especially in the present-day areas of West Bengal and Western Bangladesh. When the British East India Company began strengthening the defences at Fort William (Calcutta), the Nawab, Siraj Ud Daulah, at the encouragement of the French, attacked. Under the leadership of Robert Clive, British troops and their local allies captured Chandernagore in March 1757 and seriously defeated the Nawab on June 23, 1757 at the Battle of Plassey, when the Nawab's soldiers betrayed him. The Nawab was assassinated in Murshidabad, and the British installed their own Nawab for Bengal and extended their direct control in the south. Chandernagore was restored to the French in 1763. The Bengalis attempted to regain their territories in 1765 in alliance with the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, but were defeated again at the Battle of Buxar (1765). The centre of Indian culture and trade shifted from Delhi to Calcutta when the Mughal Empire fell.

British rule

13. During British rule, two devastating famines were instigated costing millions of lives in 1770 and 1943. Scarcely five years into the British East India Company's rule, the catastrophic Bengal famine of 1770, one of the greatest famines of history occurred. Up to a third of the population died in 1770 and subsequent years. The Indian Mutiny of 1857 replaced rule by the Company with the direct control of Bengal by the British crown. A centre of rice cultivation as well as fine cotton called muslin and the world's main source of jute fiber, Bengal, from the 1850s became one of India's principal centre's of industry, concentrated in the capital Kolkata. India's most popular province (and one of the most active provinces in freedom fighting), in 1905 Bengal was divided by the British rulers for administrative purposes into an overwhelmingly Hindu west including present-day Bihar and Orissa, and a predominantly Muslim east including Assam. Hindu - Muslim conflict became stronger through this partition. While Hindu Indians disagreed with the partition saying it was a way of dividing a Bengal which is united by language and history, Muslims supported it by saying it was a big step forward for Muslim society where Muslims will be majority and they can freely practice their religion as well as their culture. But owing to strong Hindu agitation, the British reunited East and West Bengal in 1912, and made Bihar and Orissa a separate province. Another major famine occurred during the second world war, the Bengal famine of 1943, in which an estimated 3 million people died.

Geography

14. Bangladesh is in the low-lying Ganges–Brahmaputra River Delta or Ganges Delta. This delta is formed by the confluence of the Ganges(local name Padma or Podda), Brahmaputra (Jamuna or Jomuna also known as "Yamuna"), and Meghna rivers and their respective tributaries. The Ganges unites with the Jamuna (main channel of the Brahmaputra) and later joins the Meghna to eventually empty into the Bay of Bengal. The alluvial soil deposited by these rivers has created some of the most fertile plains in the world. Bangladesh has 57 trans-boundary rivers, making water issues politically complicated to resolve – in most cases as the lower riparian state to India. Most parts of Bangladesh are less than 12 m (39.4 ft) above the sea level, and it is believed that about 10% of the land would be flooded if the sea level were to rise by 1 m (3.28 ft). The highest point in Bangladesh is in Mowdok range at 1,052 m (3,451 ft) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to the southeast of the country. Cox's Bazar, south of the city of Chittagong, has a beach that stretches uninterrupted over 120 Kilometers (75 mi).

Climate

15. Straddling the Tropic of Cancer, Bangladeshi climate is tropical with a mild winter from October to March, a hot, humid summer from March to June. A warm and humid monsoon season lasts from June to October and supplies most of the country's rainfall. Natural calamities, such as floods, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, and tidal bores occur almost every year, combined with the effects of deforestation, soil degradation and erosion. The cyclones of 1970 and 1991 were particularly devastating. A cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1991 killed some 140,000 people.

Flora and Fauna

16. A major part of the coastline comprises a marshy jungle, the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world and home to diverse flora and fauna, including the Royal Bengal Tiger. In 1997, this region was declared endangered. The Magpie Robin is the National Bird of Bangladesh and it is common and known as the Doyel or Doel (Bengali:দোয়েল). It is a widely used symbol in Bangladesh, appearing on currency notes and a landmark in the city of Dhaka is named as the Doyel Chatwar (meaning: Doyel Square). The national flower of the country is water lily, which is known as Shapla. The national fruit is jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), which in Bengali is known as Kathal. In late 2010, the Bangladeshi government selected the Mango tree as the national tree.

Economy

17. At April 2010, USA - based ratings agency Standard & Poor's(S&P) awarded Bangladesh a BB- for a long term in credit rating which is below India and well over Pakistan and Sri Lanka in South Asia. And, despite continuous domestic and international efforts to improve economic and demographic prospects, Bangladesh remains a developing. However, Bangladesh gradually decreased its dependency on foreign grant and loan from 85% (On 1988) to 2% (On 2010) for its annual development budget. Its per capita income in 2010 was US\$ 641 compared to the world average of \$8,985. But, if purchasing power parity (PPP) is taken into account, Bangladesh's economy is the 48th largest in the world at US\$ 230 billion. Jute was once the economic engine of the country. Its share of the world export market peaked in the Second World War and the late 1940s at 80% and even in the early 1970s accounted for 70% of its export earnings. However, polypropylene products began to substitute for jute products worldwide and the jute industry started to decline. Bangladesh grows very significant quantities of rice, tea, potato, mango, onion and mustard. Bangladesh is one of world's largest producers of: Rice (4th), Potato (11th), Mango (9th), Pineapple (16th), Fruit, Tropical (5th), Onion (16th), Banana (17th), Jute (2nd), Tea (11th).

18. Although two-thirds of Bangladeshis are farmers, more than three quarters of Bangladesh's export earnings come from the garment industry, which began attracting foreign investors in the 1980s due to cheap labor and low conversion cost. One significant contributor to the development of the economy has been the widespread propagation of microcredit by Muhammad Yens (awarded the Nobel peace prize in 2006) through the Grameen Bank. By the late 1990s, Grameen Bank had 2.3 million members, along with 2.5 million members of other similar organisations.

Demographics

19. Recent (2007–2010) estimates of Bangladesh's population range from 150 to 164 million and it is the 7th most populous nation in the world. In 1951, the population was 44 million. It is also the most densely populated large country in the world, and it ranks 11th in population density, when very small countries and city-states are included. A striking contrast is offered by Russia which has a similar population spread over a land area that is 120 times larger than Bangladesh. Bangladesh's population growth was among the highest in the world in the 1960s and 1970s, when the country swelled from 50 to 90 million. With the promotion of birth control in the 1980s, the growth rate has slowed. The population is relatively young, with 60% being 25 or younger and 3% being 63 or older. Life expectancy is 63 years for both males and females.

20. The overwhelming majority of Bangladeshis are ethnic Bengalis, comprising 98% of the population. The remainder are mostly Biharis and indigenous tribal groups. There is also a small but growing population of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar around Cox's Bazaar, which Bangladesh seeks to repatriate to Myanmar. The indigenous tribal peoples are concentrated in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the southeast. There are thirteen tribal groups located in this region, the largest being the Chakma. The Hill Tracts region has been a source of unrest and separatism since and before the inception of Bangladesh. Outside the Hill Tracts, the largest tribal groups are the Santhals and Garos (Achiks), while smaller groups include the Kaibartta, Meitei, Mundas, Oraons, and Zomi.

21. Nearly all Bangladeshis speak Bangla as their mother tongue and it is the official language.^[84] It is an Indo-Aryan language of Sanskrit origin with its own script. English is used as a second language among the middle and upper classes.^[85] English is also widely used in higher education and the legal system. Historically, laws were written in English and translated into Bengali until 1987 when the procedure was reversed.^[86] The Bihari population speaks Urdu, which was also the language associated with the government prior to separation from Pakistan.

22. Health and education levels remain relatively low, although they have improved recently as poverty levels have decreased. Most Bangladeshis continue to live on subsistence farming in rural villages. Health problems abound, springing from poor water quality and prevalence of infectious diseases. The water crisis is acute, with widespread bacterial contamination of surface water and arsenic contamination of groundwater. Common diseases include malaria, leptospirosis and dengue. The literacy rate in Bangladesh rose to 53.5% in 2007. There is gender disparity, though, as literacy rates are 50% among men and 31% among women, according to a 2004 UNICEF estimate. Among the most successful literacy programs are the Food for education (FFE) introduced in 1993, and a stipend program for women at the primary and secondary levels. The main religion practiced in Bangladesh is Islam (89.7%), Hinduism is 9.2% and others are 1.1%.

Millennium Development Goal

23. The MDG and targets are based on the UN Millennium Declaration, and the UN General Assembly has approved them as part of the Secretary General's road map towards implementing the Declaration. For each MDG, one or more targets have been set, using 1990 as a benchmark and 2015 as the target date.

Goals

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

MDGS and Bangladesh

24. The MDGs reflect the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. Bangladesh has made noteworthy progress in the attainment of MDGs during 1990-2000. Bangladesh's advancement towards MDGs is evident in human development, for example attainment of gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolment.

25. Mid-way through to the 2015 target of MDGs attainment, Bangladesh has covered significant grounds and can safely be said to be on track in relation to most of the targets. A midterm review of progress at the aggregate level shows that Bangladesh is making progressive strides in reducing poverty, already bringing down the poverty gap ratio to 9 against 2015 target of 8 with the rate of poverty reduction being 1.34 percent in relation to the required rate of 1.23 percent. With regard to targets such as expansion of primary and secondary education, infant and child mortality rate, containing the spread and fatality of malaria and tuberculosis, reforestation, access to safe drinking water and sanitation latrines especially in urban areas, Bangladesh has done remarkably and may well reach several of these targets before the stipulated time. The country has already achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education and in the wage employment in the non-agriculture sector.

26. However, among the challenges that Bangladesh faces, improving maternal health is a major concern. Maternal mortality, although currently on track, should be focused on more, particularly in the backdrop of recent flood and cyclones. The country is also struggling in terms of maintaining protected areas, specially the wet lands, for bio-diversity. Access to safe drinking water and sanitary latrines particularly in the rural areas is also an

aspect where focus is required. Yet another challenge that Bangladesh faces is in addressing certain pockets of poverty that are lagging far behind with respect to the national averages and where the benefits of MDGs attainment need to be specifically reached. These areas include the urban slums, the hill tracts, coastal belts and other ecologically vulnerable areas.

27. After the implementation of the first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR) prepared in 2005, the Government of Bangladesh is currently in the process of finalizing its second PRSP titled Moving Ahead. How UNDP promotes progress toward the MDGs. The newly aligned project Support to Monitoring PRS and MDGs in Bangladesh essentially delineates UNDP COs efforts towards MDGs progress and attainment in Bangladesh. The broad objectives of the project include two-pronged approach which involves a) MDGs-aligned National Strategies, Policy research, analysis and advocacy b) Location of MDGs at the sub-national levels.

Status of MDGs in Bangladesh

28. **Goal 1:** Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger Bangladesh is well on track to achieving Goal 1 with poverty coming down to 40 percent in 2005. Also, the average annual rate of poverty reduction till 2005 has been 1.34 percent against the required 1.23 percent to meet the 2015 target. The poverty gap ratio has also decreased dramatically to 9.0.

29. **Goal 2 : Achieve Universal Primary Education.** While a significant 87 percent has been achieved in terms of primary school enrollment, dropout rates remain high and therefore primary school completion rate low. Progress has been made in adult literacy 54 percent in 2005but additional effort is needed to reach the target.

30. **Goal 3 : Promote Gender Equality & Empower Women.** Bangladesh has achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education together with being on track with respect to percentage of women employed in agriculture sector.

31. **Goal 4 : Reduce Child Mortality.** The country is on track with regard to achieving this goal. Significant strides have been made in all three indicators and if the trend sustains, the country will meet the 2015 target well ahead of schedule.

32. **Goal 5 : Improve Maternal Health.** Although the maternal mortality ratio is on track, it remains a challenge for Bangladesh to sustain the rate given the complex socio-economic factors that affect the goal. Also, the percentage of skilled birth attendants is low.

RESTRICTED

33. **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases.** Bangladesh has made some progress in combating the spread of malaria with the number of prevalence dropping from 42 cases per 100,000 in 2001 to 34 in 2005.
34. **Goal- 7.** Ensure Environmental Sustainability While significant progress has been made in terms of access to safe drinking water and sanitary latrines in urban areas, the same remains a challenge in rural areas. Also maintaining wet-lands and bio-diversity is still a challenge.
35. **Goal 8.** Develop a Global partnership for Development Penetration of telephone lines and internet, particularly cell phone usage, has increased to a great extent but youth employment rate is still low.
36. Overall, goal 3 is already achieved. There is more than 50% progress in attaining goal 2. In case of the other goals, attainment is possible if necessary changes are made in policy and strategies

TOPIC-2

LIBERATION WAR 1971

The Bangladesh Liberation War

1. Bengali:Muktijuddho (মুক্তিযুদ্ধ) was an armed conflict pitting East Pakistan and India against West Pakistan. The war resulted in the secession of East Pakistan, which became the independent nation of Bangladesh.

2. The war broke out on 26 March 1971 as army units directed by West Pakistan launched a military operation in East Pakistan against Bengali civilians, students, intelligentsia, and armed personnel who were demanding separation of the East from West Pakistan. Bengali military, paramilitary and civilians formed the Mukti Bahini (মুক্তি বাহিনী). Bengali Liberation Army used guerrilla warfare tactics to fight against the West Pakistan army. India provided economic, military and diplomatic support to the Mukti Bahini rebels, leading Pakistan to launch Operation Chengiz Khan, a pre-emptive attack on the western border of India which started the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. On 16 December 1971, the allied forces of the Indian army and the Mukti Bahini defeated the West Pakistani forces deployed in the East. The resulting surrender was the largest in number of prisoners of war since World War II.

Background

3. In August 1947, the Partition of British India gave birth to two new states; a secular state named India and an Islamic state named Pakistan. But Pakistan comprised two geographically and culturally separate areas to the east and the west of India. The western zone was popularly (and for a period of time, also officially) termed West Pakistan and the eastern zone (modern-day Bangladesh) was initially termed East Bengal and later, East Pakistan. Although the population of the two zones was close to equal, political power was concentrated in West Pakistan and it was widely perceived that East Pakistan was being exploited economically, leading to many grievances. On 25 March 1971, rising political discontent and cultural nationalism in East Pakistan was met by brutal suppressive force from the ruling elite of the West Pakistan establishment in what came to be termed Operation Searchlight. The violent crackdown by West Pakistan forces led to East Pakistan declaring its independence as the state of Bangladesh and to the start of civil war. The war led to a sea of refugees (estimated at the time to be about 10 million) flooding into the eastern provinces of India. Facing a mounting humanitarian and economic crisis, India started actively aiding and organizing the Bangladeshi resistance army known as the Mukti Bahini (মুক্তি বাহিনী).

EAST PAKISTAN GRIEVANCES

4. **Economic Disparities.** Although East Pakistan had a larger population, West Pakistan dominated the divided country politically and received more money from the common budget.

Year	Spending on West Pakistan (in crore)	Spending on East Pakistan (in crore)	Amount spent on East as % of West
1950–55	1,129	524	46.4
1955–60	1,655	524	31.7
1960–65	3,355	1,404	41.8
1965–70	5,195	2,141	41.2
Total	11,334	4,593	40.5

Source: Reports of the Advisory Panels for the Fourth Five Year Plan 1970–75, Vol. I, published by the planning commission of Pakistan (Quick reference: corer = 10 or 10 million)

5. **Political Difference.** Although East Pakistan accounted for a slight majority of the country's population,^[15] political power remained firmly in the hands of West Pakistanis. Since a straightforward system of representation based on population would have concentrated political power in East Pakistan, the West Pakistani establishment came up with the "One Unit" scheme, where all of West Pakistan was considered one province. This was solely to counterbalance the East wing's votes. After the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first prime minister, in 1951, political power began to be concentrated in the President of Pakistan, and eventually, the military. The nominal elected chief executive, the Prime Minister, was frequently sacked by the establishment, acting through the President. The situation reached a climax when in 1970 the Awami League, the largest East Pakistani political party, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won a landslide victory in the national elections. The party won 167 of the 169 seats allotted to East Pakistan, and thus a majority of the 313 seats in the National Assembly. This gave the Awami League the constitutional right to form a government. However, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (a Sindhi), the leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, refused to allow Rahman to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Instead, he proposed the idea of having two Prime Ministers, one for each wing. The proposal elicited outrage in the east wing, already chafing under the other constitutional innovation, the "one unit scheme". Bhutto also refused to accept Rahman's Six Points. On 3 March 1971, the two leaders of the two wings along with the President General Yahya Khan met in Dhaka to decide the fate of the country. Talks failed. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for a nationwide strike.

6. **Four Point Combination.** On 7 March 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (soon to be the prime minister) delivered a speech at the Racecourse Ground (now called the Suhrawardy Udyan). In this speech he mentioned a further four-point condition to consider the National Assembly Meeting on 25 March:

- a. The immediate lifting of martial law.
- b. Immediate withdrawal of all military personnel to their barracks.
- c. An inquiry into the loss of life.
- d. Immediate transfer of power to the elected representative of the people before the assembly meeting 25 March.

7. **Military Imbalance.** Bengalis were under represented in the Pakistan military. Officers of Bengali origin in the different wings of the armed forces made up just 5% of overall force by 1965; of these, only a few were in command positions, with the majority in technical or administrative posts. West Pakistanis believed that Bengalis were not "martially inclined" unlike Pashtuns and Punjabis; the "martial races" notion was dismissed as ridiculous and humiliating by Bengalis. Moreover, despite huge defence spending, East Pakistan received none of the benefits, such as contracts, purchasing and military support jobs. The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 over Kashmir also highlighted the sense of military insecurity among Bengalis as only an under-strength infantry division and 15 combat aircraft without tank support were in East Pakistan to thwart any Indian retaliations during the conflict.

8. **Language Controversy.** In 1948, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's first Governor-General, declared in Dhaka (then usually spelled Dacca in English) that "Urdu, and only Urdu" would be the common language for all of Pakistan. This proved highly controversial, since Urdu was a language that was only spoken in the West by Muhajirs and in the East by Biharis, although the Urdu language had been promoted as the lingua franca of Indian Muslims by political and religious leaders such as Sir Khwaja Salimullah, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Nawab Viqar-ul-Mulk and Maulvi Abdul Haq. The language was considered a vital element of the Islamic culture for Indian Muslims; Hindi and the Devanagari script were seen as fundamentals of Hindu culture. The majority groups in West Pakistan spoke Punjabi, while the Bengali language was spoken by the vast majority of East Pakistanis. The language controversy eventually reached a point where East Pakistan revolted while the other part of Pakistan remain calm even though Punjabi was spoken by the majority groups of West Pakistan. Several students and civilians lost their lives in a police crackdown on 21 February 1952. The day is revered in Bangladesh and in West Bengal as the Language Martyrs' Day. Later, in memory of the 1952 killings, UNESCO declared 21 February as the International Mother Language Day in 1999. In West Pakistan, the movement was seen as a sectional uprising against Pakistani national interests and the founding ideology of Pakistan, the Two-Nation Theory. West Pakistani politicians considered Urdu a product of Indian Islamic culture, as Ayub Khan said, as late as 1967, "East Bengalis... still are under considerable Hindu culture and influence." But, the deaths led to bitter feelings among East Pakistanis, and they were a major factor in the push for independence.

9. **Responds to Cyclone.** Response to the 1970 cyclone The 1970 Bhola cyclone made landfall on the East Pakistan coastline during the evening of 12 November, around the same time as a local high tide, killing an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 people. Though the exact death toll is not known, it is considered the deadliest tropical on record. A week after the landfall, President Khan conceded that his government had made "slips" and "mistakes" in its handling of the relief efforts due to a lack of understanding of the magnitude of the disaster.

Conflict between East and West Pakistan Govt Offices

10. A statement released by eleven political leaders in East Pakistan ten days after the cyclone hit charged the government with "gross neglect, callous and utter indifference". They also accused the president of playing down the magnitude of the problem in news coverage on 19 November, students held a march in Dhaka protesting the slowness of the government response. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani addressed a rally of 50,000 people on 24 November, where he accused the president of inefficiency and demanded his resignation. As the conflict between East and West Pakistan developed in March, the Dhaka offices of the two government organisations directly involved in relief efforts were closed for at least two weeks, first by a general strike and then by a ban on government work in East Pakistan by the Awami League. With this increase in tension, foreign personnel were evacuated over fears of violence. Relief work continued in the field, but long-term planning was curtailed. This conflict widened into the Bangladesh Liberation War in December and concluded with the creation of Bangladesh. This is one of the first times that a natural event helped to trigger a civil war.

Operation Searchlight

11. A planned military pacification carried out by the Pakistan Army—codenamed Operation Searchlight—started on 25 March to curb the Bengali nationalist movement by taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and then eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month. Before the beginning of the operation, all foreign journalists were systematically deported from East Pakistan.

12. The main phase of Operation Searchlight ended with the fall of the last major town in Bengali hands in mid-May. The operation also began the 1971 Bangladesh atrocities. These systematic killings served only to enrage the Bengalis, which ultimately resulted in the secession of East Pakistan later in the same year. The international media and reference books in English have published casualty figures which vary greatly, from 5,000–35,000 in Dhaka, and 200,000–3,000,000 for Bangladesh as a whole.

Declaration of independence

13.. The violence unleashed by the Pakistani forces on 25 March 1971, proved the last straw to the efforts to negotiate a settlement. Following these outrages, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman signed an official declaration that read:

14. "Today Bangladesh is a sovereign and independent country. On Thursday night, West Pakistani armed forces suddenly attacked the police barracks at Razarbagh and the EPR headquarters at Pilkhana in Dhaka. Many innocent and unarmed have been killed in Dhaka city and other places of Bangladesh. Violent clashes between E.P.R. and Police on the one hand and the armed forces of Pakistan on the other, are going on. The Bengalis are fighting the enemy with great courage for an independent Bangladesh. May Allah aid us in our fight for freedom. Joy Bangla. "

14. Sheikh Mujib also called upon the people to resist the occupation forces through a radio message. Mujib was arrested on the night of 25–26 March 1971 at about 1:30 a.m. (as per Radio Pakistan's news on 29 March 1971).

15. A telegram containing the text of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's declaration reached some students in Chittagong. The message was translated to Bangla by Dr. Manjula Anwar. The students failed to secure permission from higher authorities to broadcast the message from the nearby Agrabad Station of Radio Pakistan. They crossed Kalurghat Bridge into an area controlled by an East Bengal Regiment under Major Ziaur Rahman. Bengali soldiers guarded the station as engineers prepared for transmission. At 19:45 hrs on 27 March 1971, Major Ziaur Rahman broadcast the announcement of the declaration of independence on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur. On 28 March Major Ziaur Rahman made another announcement, which was as follows:

16. This is Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro. I, Major Ziaur Rahman, at the direction of Bangobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, hereby declare that the independent People's Republic of Bangladesh has been established. At his direction, I have taken command as the temporary Head of the Republic. In the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, I call upon all Bengalis to rise against the attack by the West Pakistani Army. We shall fight to the last to free our Motherland. By the grace of Allah, victory is ours. Joy Bangla. Audio of Zia's announcement (interview – Belal Mohammed)

17. The Kalurghat Radio Station's transmission capability was limited. The message was picked up by a Japanese ship in Bay of Bengal. It was then re-transmitted by Radio Australia and later by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

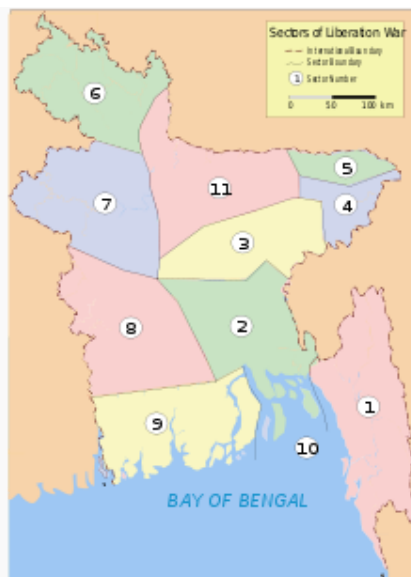
18. M A Hannan, an Awami League leader from Chittagong, is said to have made the first announcement of the declaration of independence over the radio on 26 March 1971. There is controversy now as to when Major Zia gave his speech. BNP sources maintain that it was 26 March, and there was no message regarding declaration of independence

from Mujibur Rahman. Pakistani sources, like Siddiq Salik in Witness to Surrender had written that he heard about Mujibor Rahman's message on the Radio while Operation Searchlight was going on, and Maj. Gen. Hakeem A. Qureshi in his book The 1971 Indo-Pak War: A Soldier's Narrative, gives the date of Zia's speech as 27 March 1971.

19. 26 March 1971 is considered the official Independence Day of Bangladesh, and the name Bangladesh was in effect henceforth. In July 1971, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi openly referred to the former East Pakistan as Bangladesh. Some Pakistani and Indian officials continued to use the name "East Pakistan" until 16 December 1971.

Liberation war

20. **March – June.** March to June At first resistance was spontaneous and disorganized, and was not expected to be prolonged. But when the Pakistani Army cracked down upon the population, resistance grew. The Mukti Bahini became increasingly active. The Pakistani military sought to quell them, but increasing numbers of Bengali soldiers defected to the underground "Bangladesh Army". These Bengali units slowly merged into the Mukti Bahini and bolstered their weaponry with supplies from India. Pakistan responded by airlifting in two infantry divisions and reorganizing their forces. They also raised paramilitary forces of Razakars, Al-Badrs and Al-Shams (who were mostly members of the Muslim League, the then government party and other Islamist groups), as well as other Bengalis who opposed independence, and Bihari Muslims who had settled during the time of partition. On 17 April 1971, a provisional government was formed in Meherpur district in western Bangladesh bordering India with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was in prison in Pakistan, as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Acting President, and Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister. As fighting grew between the army and the Bengali Mukti Bahini an estimated 10 million Bengalis, mainly Hindus, sought refuge in the Indian states of Assam and West Bengal.



21. **June – September.** Bangladesh forces command was set up on 11 July, with Col. M A G Osmani as commander in chief, Lt. Col. Abdur Rab as chief of Army Staff and Group Captain A K Khandker as Deputy Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Force. Bangladesh was divided into Eleven Sectors each with a commander chosen from defected officers of the Pakistani army who joined the Mukti Bahini to conduct guerrilla operations and train fighters. Most of their training camps were situated near the border area and were operated with assistance from India. The 10th Sector was directly placed under a Commander in Chief (C-in-C) and included the Naval Commandos and C-in-C's special force. Three brigades (11 Battalions) were raised for conventional warfare; a large guerrilla force (estimated at 100,000) was trained. Guerrilla operations, which slackened during the training phase, picked up after August. Economic and military targets in Dhaka were attacked. The major success story was Operation Jackpot, in which naval commandos mined and blew up berthed ships in Chittagong on 16 August 1971. Pakistani reprisals claimed lives of thousands of civilians. The Indian army took over supplying the Mukti Bahini from the BSF. They organised six sectors for supplying the Bangladesh forces.

October – December

22. Bangladesh conventional forces attacked border outposts. Kamalpur, Belonia and Battle of Boyra are a few examples. 90 out of 370 BOPs fell to Bengali forces. Guerrilla attacks intensified, as did Pakistani and Razakar reprisals on civilian populations. Pakistani forces were reinforced by eight battalions from West Pakistan. The Bangladeshi independence fighters even managed to temporarily capture airstrips at Lalmonirhat and Shalutikar. Both of these were used for flying in supplies and arms from India. Pakistan sent 5 battalions from West Pakistan as reinforcements.

Indian involvement

23. Wary of the growing involvement of India, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) launched a pre-emptive strike on India. The attack was modelled on the Israeli Air Force's Operation Focus during the Six-Day War. However, the plan failed to achieve the desired success and was seen as an open act of unprovoked aggression against the Indians. Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi declared war on Pakistan and in aid of the Mukti Bahini, then ordered the immediate mobilisation of troops and launched the full-scale invasion. This marked the official start of the Indo-Pakistani War.

24. Three Indian corps were involved in the invasion of East Pakistan. They were supported by nearly three brigades of Mukti Bahini fighting alongside them, and many more fighting irregularly. This was far superior to the Pakistani army of three divisions, The Indians quickly overran the country, bypassing heavily defended strongholds. Pakistani forces were unable to effectively counter the Indian attack, as they had been deployed in small units around the border to counter guerrilla attacks by the Mukti Bahini. Unable to defend Dhaka, the Pakistanis surrendered on 16 December 1971.

Pakistani Response

25. Pakistan launched a number of armored thrusts along India's western front in attempts to force Indian troops away from East Pakistan. Pakistan tried to fight back and boost the sagging morale by incorporating the Special Services Group commandos in sabotage and rescue missions.

The Air and Naval War

26. The Indian Air Force carried out several sorties against Pakistan, and within a week, IAF aircraft dominated the skies of East Pakistan. It achieved near-total air supremacy by the end of the first week as the entire Pakistani air contingent in the east, PAF No.14 Squadron, was grounded because of Indian airstrikes at Tejgaon, Kurmitolla, Lalmonirhat and Shamsheer Nagar. Sea Hawks from INS Vikrant also struck Chittagong, Barisal and Cox's Bazar, destroying the eastern wing of the Pakistan Navy and effectively blockading the East Pakistan ports, thereby cutting off any escape routes for the stranded Pakistani soldiers. The nascent Bangladesh Navy (comprising officers and sailors who defected from the Pakistani Navy) aided the Indians in the marine warfare, carrying out attacks, most notably Operation Jackpot.

Surrender and Aftermath

27. On 16 December 1971, Lt. Gen A.A.K. Niazi, CO of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan signed the instrument of surrender. At the time of surrender only a few countries had provided diplomatic recognition to the new nation. Over 90,000 Pakistani troops surrendered to the Indian forces making it the largest surrender since World War II. Bangladesh sought admission in the United Nations with most voting in its favor, but China vetoed this as Pakistan was its key ally.^[51] The United States, also a key ally of Pakistan, was one of the last nations to accord Bangladesh recognition. To ensure a smooth transition, in 1972 the Simla Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan. The treaty ensured that Pakistan recognized the independence of Bangladesh in exchange for the return of the Pakistani PoWs. India treated all the PoWs in strict accordance with the Geneva Convention, rule 125. It released more than 90,000 Pakistani PoWs in five months. Further, as a gesture of goodwill, nearly 200 soldiers who were sought for war crimes by Bengalis were also pardoned by India. The accord also gave back more than 13,000 km² of land that Indian troops had seized in West Pakistan during the war, though India retained a few strategic areas; most notably Kargil (which would in turn again be the focal point for a war between the two nations in 1999). This was done as a measure of promoting "lasting peace" and was acknowledged by many observers as a sign of maturity by India. But some in India felt that the treaty had been too lenient to Bhutto, who had pleaded for leniency, arguing that the fragile democracy in Pakistan would crumble if the accord was perceived as being overly harsh by Pakistanis.

Reaction in West Pakistan to the war

28. Reaction to the defeat and dismemberment of half the nation was a shocking loss to top military and civilians alike. No one had expected that they would lose the formal war in under a fortnight and there was also anger at what was perceived as a meek surrender of the army in East Pakistan. Yahya Khan's dictatorship collapsed and gave way to Bhutto who took the opportunity to rise to power. General Niazi, who surrendered along with 93,000 troops, was viewed with suspicion and hatred upon his return to Pakistan. He was shunned and branded a traitor. The war also exposed the shortcomings of Pakistan's declared strategic doctrine that the "defence of East Pakistan lay in West Pakistan". Pakistan also failed to gather international support, and found it self fighting a lone battle with only the USA providing any external help. This further embittered the Pakistanis who had faced the worst military defeat of an army in decades.

Foreign Reaction

29. **USA.** The United States supported Pakistan both politically and materially. U.S. President Richard Nixon denied getting involved in the situation, saying that it was an internal matter of Pakistan. But when Pakistan's defeat seemed certain, Nixon sent the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise to the Bay of Bengal, a move deemed by the Indians as a nuclear threat. Enterprise arrived on station on 11 December 1971. On 6 December and 13 December, the Soviet Navy dispatched two groups of ships, armed with nuclear missiles, from Vladivostok; they trailed U.S. Task Force 74 in the Indian Ocean from 18 December until 7 January 1972. Nixon and Henry Kissinger feared Soviet expansion into South and Southeast Asia. Pakistan was a close ally of the People's Republic of China, with whom Nixon had been negotiating a rapprochement and which he intended to visit in February 1972. Nixon feared that an Indian invasion of West Pakistan would mean total Soviet domination of the region, and that it would seriously undermine the global position of the United States and the regional position of America's new tacit ally, China. In order to demonstrate to China the bonafides of the United States as an ally, and in direct violation of the US Congress-imposed sanctions on Pakistan, Nixon sent military supplies to Pakistan and routed them through Jordan and Iran, while also encouraging China to increase its arms supplies to Pakistan. The Nixon administration also ignored reports it received of the genocidal activities of the Pakistani Army in East Pakistan, most notably the Blood telegram.

30. **USSR.** The Soviet Union supported Bangladesh and Indian armies, as well as the Mukti Bahini during the war, recognizing that the independence of Bangladesh would weaken the position of its rivals – the United States and China. It gave assurances to India that if a confrontation with the United States or China developed, the USSR would take countermeasures. This was enshrined in the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty signed in August 1971. The Soviets also sent a nuclear submarine to ward off the threat posed by USS Enterprise in the Indian Ocean.

31. **China** As a long-standing ally of Pakistan, the People's Republic of China reacted with alarm to the evolving situation in East Pakistan and the prospect of India invading West Pakistan and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. Believing that just such an Indian attack was imminent, Nixon encouraged China to mobilize its armed forces along its border with India to discourage such an eventuality; the Chinese did not, however, respond in this manner, and instead threw their weight behind demands for an immediate ceasefire, because of their heavy losses during the 1962 Sino-Indian War despite their victory. China did, however, continue to supply Pakistan with arms and aid. It is believed that had China taken action against India to protect West Pakistan, then the Soviet Union would have taken military action against China. One Pakistani writer has speculated that China chose not to attack India because Himalayan passes were snowbound in the wintry months of November and December.

32. **United Nations**. Though the United Nations condemned the human rights violations, it failed to defuse the situation politically before the start of the war. The Security Council assembled on 4 December to discuss the volatile situation in South Asia. The USSR vetoed the resolution twice. After lengthy discussions on 7 December, the General Assembly promptly adopted by a majority resolution calling for an "immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of troops." The United States on 12 December requested that the Security Council be reconvened. However, by the time it was reconvened and proposals were finalized, the war had ended, making the measures merely academic. The inaction of the United Nations in face of the East Pakistan crisis was widely criticized. The conflict also exposed the delay in decision making that failed to address the underlying issues in time.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War#cite_note-55

TOPIC-3
DIGITIZATION OF BANGLADESH : VISION 2021

Background

1. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are recognized a powerful tool for socio-economic development. With appropriate policies, supplemented by realistic strategies, ICTs are known to have brought tremendous welfare to people in terms of better access to information, job creation, and enhanced public services through efficient governance and diversification of economic opportunities. Today, the adaptation and usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is increasingly being linked to the national economic development and subsequent human development for the countries of the world. Countries are using ICTs to participate in the international economy, to exploit emerging technologies for the betterment of their citizens, to modernize institutions and markets. Bangladesh, like most developing countries, recognizes the potential of ICTs as an unprecedented lever for economic emancipation as well as an enabler for poverty reduction and human development – both of which are of equal importance. Over the last few years, new understanding of ICT as a development enabler has made its way into the various policy documents of the government. The revised ICT Policy 2009, which has recently been approved in the cabinet, has specific direction and guidelines reflecting most of the priorities of the Digital Bangladesh agenda.

2. The 9th Parliament has already passed the Right to Information Act. The act has required legal imperatives that collaborates and promotes the overall context of Digital Bangladesh vision. The cabinet has already approved the ICT Act 2009, which is expected to be placed in the 2nd session of Parliament for approval and promulgation. Once promulgated, this would pave the way to introduce the provisions required to initiate electronic signature and e- Commerce. The policy directives to introduce Citizen's Charter at all levels of government should act as another policy incentive to promote use of ICT in delivery of government services and information. Steps taken thus far to introduce such charter and related lessons learned would be useful inputs in implementing Digital Bangladesh.

Emergence of Digital Bangladesh

3. "Digital Bangladesh by 2021" emerged as part of "Charter for Change"—the election manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League for the 9th Parliamentary Election. The declaration was made in December 12, 2008 for the election held in December 29, 2008. Though a date is attached to this agenda, it is interpreted as a long-term vision rather than a target. This forward-looking vision quickly captured people's imagination and became the cornerstone of the entire election manifesto. In the backdrop of a markedly pro-poor election manifesto of the Awami League, the Digital Bangladesh vision is unique as it proposes to mainstream ICTs as a pro-poor tool. Indeed, this is probably the first time in the history of Bangladesh that the vision of poverty reduction and human development leveraging ICTs was proposed that received instant support from common citizens. In many ways, the "Digital Bangladesh" vision took the policy makers and practitioners by surprise. While the basic premise of the vision is not new, the all-encompassing nature of the vision demands a fundamental shift of mindset of the implementers. It not only needs thinking anew but new ways of thinking.

Key Elements of Digital Bangladesh

4. The “Digital Bangladesh” vision needs to be translated in the context of the overall election manifesto of the Awami League led Grand Alliance that now forms the largest chunk of this government’s commitment. In Digital Bangladesh, ICT needs to be an enabler to the nation’s struggle to achieve the economic, cultural, and social emancipation. Indeed, one of the key tenants of “Digital Bangladesh” is its unmistakable bias towards the poor who constitute a large majority of the people. In many ways, ‘Digital Bangladesh’ is a reincarnation of the vision of ‘Sonar Bangla’ (Golden Bengal). Hence, it may be wise to keep it as an overarching objective rather than a conclusive target. From this viewpoint, where it makes sense, ICTs and new technologies need to be leveraged in all aspect of national progress of a Digital Bangladesh. Some of the key areas in which ICT can be leveraged immediately are outlined below.

Human Resource Development .

5. Digital Bangladesh needs people who can take it forward and thrive in such a country. This component is about the future of “Digital Bangladesh” and is a precondition to propel the agenda to its final destination. Clearly, a student who used ICT to learn will find it easier to use ICT to apply whatever s/he learned in the Digital Bangladesh. The key objective here is to make the best use of new technologies to build world-class skills in all areas of study especially mathematics, science, and English language. Taking advantage of newer and less costly delivery tools and digital learning contents the aim will be to build the competencies needed to compete in the globalized 21st Century world. ICT for education or e-Education will also deal with providing vocational and ‘lifelong education’ opportunities to the youth and adults in order to retool them and build newer skills to improve their productivity. The Ministries of Education, and Primary and Mass Education have realized the potential of ICTs in elevating the educational quality and have deployed initiatives to develop digital materials for school education. Realizing the inadequacies of the digital platforms in schools, especially the absence of them in primary schools, the ministries have started with digital materials for teacher education which is a crucial area of building the capacity of teachers who are going to build the soldiers for Digital Bangladesh. Innovations like use of TV and Video in classrooms are being tested in several instances. Radio based adult education programme has already shown great prospects. Use of videotaped TV programme as learning tools is becoming popular among the farmers. Initiative to use digital media and e-learning platforms are being undertaken to provide on-demand and on-the-job training and skills building for the public servants. In this context, as part of the Digital Bangladesh initiative, efforts need to be taken to develop a sustainable institutional mechanism that enables creation and distribution of digital content by both public and private sectors and explore new and sustainable delivery platforms for rural schools.

Connecting the Citizens.

6. Ensuring access to the Digital Bangladesh for all citizens, poor or rich, literate or illiterate, urban or rural is another foundation stone of Digital Bangladesh. The key objective of this component is to find a sustainable channel so that people can benefit from all that the Digital Bangladesh would offer in a manner that s/he could easily use and afford. More specifically, this component will deal with :

- a. Building awareness and capacity of the communities to access public services leveraging ICTS.
- b. Issues associated with local language content and locally relevant content,
- c. Innovative access channels and platforms for common men/women, etc.

7. This component will also deal with establishing two-way channels to promote participation of grassroots in policy discourse and provide feedbacks to the policy makers on particular policy adjustments. Already mobile phones have created a sustainable channel of communication. The use of mobile phone based voting in to determine the best singing talent in a TV show probably represents the most popular use of the device to reach to the poorest of the poor. Several pilots are underway to use voice-based systems that provide required agricultural information to the farmer. Tele-medicine, both as a tool for off-site service by medical specialist and as a call-centre service are tried and tested in local context.

8. Several initiatives to develop community based and/or rural shared internet access points by both private sector and government are underway. Already Bangladesh Tele-centre Network, an association of private sector practitioners, has deployed many hundreds of these centres. At the same time, initiative to establish such shared access points in Union Parishads, Upazilla Parishads, Farmers' Clubs, Agriculture extension service stations, Paurashovas are underway under the direct/indirect auspices of government agencies.

9. Phone-in programmes in public and private TV channels have become a regular feature already. Introduction of phone-in feature in the nationally televised programme on agricultural issues, health issues, legal, and human rights issues already attracts a large audience. Community radio can emerge as another channel of communication for the poor and the marginalized. If people's participation in programming and management can be ensured, community radio can be a sustainable platform for people-to-people communication and problem solving.

10. As part of the Digital Bangladesh vision, new efforts should be undertaken to develop sustainable delivery channel systematically in partnership with private sector as the last mile provider. Shared and specialized service outlets, both in private sector and at the local government bodies, to cater one-stop services to the citizen need to be established and promoted. Low cost broadband access to the internet is another key priority in this regard. It may be mentioned already a private company has obtained license to build fibre optic backbone to connect all Upazilla under the "Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network" and started pilot operation as well. Policy incentive to promote low cost 3rd generation cellular and WiMax connectivity to rural Bangladesh may also be considered as a policy priority.

Digital Govt for Pro-poor Services.

11. Government exist to execute authority and function to make and the power to enforce laws, regulations, or rules with the ultimate objective is to serve the citizen. The key objective of 'Digital Government' would be to leverage technology in all spares of government with a sharp focus to ensure delivery of such services to those who are the least served. The two key sub-components of this component are e-Citizen Service and e-Administration to delivery e-Citizen Services.

12. Unlike most developed countries, government is the key provider of citizen services and public information in Bangladesh. Communities rely on public services like agriculture, health, education from the government. Hence, one of the key sub-components of the Digital Bangladesh would be provision of ICT enabled services (e-Citizen services) by public agencies. It may be noted that priorities should be given to services that are critical for majority of the citizen like education, health, agriculture, social safety nets, etc.

13. The key objective of the e-Citizen service sub-component is to ensure anytime, anywhere services to anyone in need of such services at a cost that he/she can afford and in a way that is transparent to all. The key outcome of this component is to make sure that people, especially the poor and marginalized, get the most out of public provisions of information and services. Hence, the key deliverables of e-Citizen Service initiative is innovative service design and delivery channels that suits citizen's lifestyle. In terms of specific indicators, this would mean i) reduced number of interaction, especially face-to-face interactions, between the service provider and recipient, ii) delivery in a speedy and cost effective manner, iii) extended service availability (where possible 24x7 window), etc.

14. As a special case for service delivery, this sub-component will also focus on providing services and information to government employees and the business communities (especially the small business entities) in a convenient and cost effective manner. Payment of utility bills through mobile phones, SMS-based railway ticketing information, etc. are some of the pioneering initiatives of the government which can be cited as examples of ICT-based service delivery. These initiatives enable common citizens to receive information and services in a manner that is most convenient to them. For example, the initiative that allowed customers to pay dues to Titas Gas Distribution Company Limited liberated the customers from standing in long queues to pay their dues, and instead, afforded them alternative ways to settle their bills any time and from anywhere suiting their lifestyles.

15. The second important sub-component of "Digital Government" would be e-Administration. This sub-component would involve leveraging ICT tools to encapacitate the civil servants and administrative processes with an explicit objective to plan, design, and implement efficient production and delivery of citizen services. Use of database systems at Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistic to support effective management of the secondary schools and teachers is an excellent example of such initiative.

ICT Business

16. This component will deal with three broad issues of Digital Bangladesh namely:

- a. **Access to Market.** Everaging ICTs to promote access to markets by the disadvantaged producers and businesses would be a prime objective of this component. By extension, this also includes the issue of leveraging ICTs to maintain a socially responsible and equitable market for all. By extending initiatives like cellBazar and mobile payments, this sub- component can open up markets for small entrepreneurs and large business alike. Introduction of ICT platforms to participate in public procurements (e-Tender) is yet another example of how ICTs are leveraged in various parts of the world to open new opportunities for the businesses.
- b. **Promotion of ICT business to support Digital Bangladesh.** The second sub-component would be the issue of promotion of the ICT business. The basic objective would be to support the industry so that it may provide the services and technology needed to sustain the three ther components of Digital Bangladesh. This sub-component would need to deal with assistance to the private sector to attain the international standards by bootstrapping some of the training institutions/mechanism and by promulgating the necessary standards and benchmarks required to maintain and encourage quality.
- c. **ICT as an Export Oriented Sector.** Finally, the third sub-component involves promoting the ICT business sector to boost its potential for ICT export and earn foreign currency. This may also involve providing the right springboard required for the local companies to access the global market. In case of both the second and third sub-component, the other key objective will be to generate gainful employment for the youth and for the country. Initiation like m-banking and electronic payment as well as electronic business transactions are few key initiative in this regard. Supporting the industry to develop required human resources and promoting market access would be another dimension of the initiative.

Plan of Action

17. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development are:

- a. Information and communication infrastructure
- b. Access to information and knowledge
- c. Capacity building
- d. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- e. Enabling environment
- f. ICT Applications:

- (1) E-government.
 - (2) E-business.
 - (3) E-learning.
 - (4) E-health.
 - (5) E-employment.
 - (6) E-environment.
 - (7) E-agriculture.
 - (8) E-science.
- g. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content.
- h. Media.
- j. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society.
- k. International and regional cooperation.

18. “Digital Bangladesh” does not only mean the broad use of computers, perhaps it means the modern philosophy of effective and useful use of technology in terms of implementing the promises in education, health, job placement, poverty reduction etc. Therefore, the government underscores a changing attitude, positive thinking and innovative ideas for the success of “Digital Bangladesh”.

Vision 2021

19. The use of information and communication technology has been playing a vital role in the 21st century due to globalization and the government is encouraged to adapting with the coming future. The democratic government has declared the “Vision 2021” in the election manifesto which targets establishment of a resourceful and modern country by 2021 through effective use of information and communication technology-a "Digital Bangladesh". The philosophy of “Digital Bangladesh” comprises ensuring people’s democracy and rights, transparency, accountability, establishing justice and ensuring delivery of government services in each door through maximum use of technology-with the ultimate goal to improve the daily lifestyle of general people. Government’s “Digital Bangladesh” includes all classes of people and does not discriminate people in terms of technology. Hence, government have emphasized on the four elements of “Digital Bangladesh Vision” which are human resource development, people involvement, civil services and use of information technology in business.

Bangladesh as we want to see it in 2021

20. **Democracy and Effective Parliament.** Democracy and strong democratic institutions will be established for holding reliable election at regular intervals, accountability of government and effective Parliament. All necessary steps will be taken for making Parliament effective.

21. **Political Framework, Decentralization of Power & People's Participation.** Local government will be given due importance with a view to effecting radical change of the political system. The local government institutions will play a critical role in development programmes. Self-reliant local self-government institutions will be established at upazila and zila levels to ensure representative, responsive and functional governance at the grassroots levels.

22. **Good Governance Through Establishing Rule of Law and Avoiding Political Partisanship.** Human rights will be established on a strong footing with a view to ensuring the rule of law. Independence of the judiciary will be ensured and the institutions of the state and administration will be freed from partisan influence. The basis of appointments and promotions will be merit, efficiency, seniority, honesty and loyalty to the Republic; political connections will have no relevance.

23. **Transformation of Political Culture.** Terrorism, corruption and use of religion for politics will be eliminated. Steps appropriate to the time will be taken to establish democratic principles in the political parties, transparency of political funding, civility and tolerance.

24. **A society Free from Corruption.** The institutions of the State will be made more effective along with an independent and strong Anti-corruption Commission for curbing corruption. Social resistance to corruption will be promoted along side legal steps. All possible steps will be taken to stop corruption, such as charter of citizens' rights, right to information, computerization of official documents, and decentralization of power. Adequate checks at every level of public spending would be built into the financial management system of the government.

25. **Empowerment and Equal Rights for Women.** The Women's Policy of 1997 will be revived for ensuring equal right and access for women to the state and social space; laws which discriminate against women will be amended and 100 seats will be reserved for women for direct election.

26. **Economic Development & Initiative**

a. **Meeting Basic Needs.** With a view to providing food, clothing, shelter, education and health care to the citizens in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution, gross domestic product will be raised to 8% by 2013 and 10% by 2021 which will be sustained thereafter.

b. **Population and Labour Force.** Population in 2021 is estimated at 165m, and labour force at 105m. Programmes will be taken up for employment of at least 85% of the work force.

c. **Alleviation of Poverty.** We aim not at reduction of poverty, but removal of poverty, through which we shall try to achieve the Millennium Goals declared by UN by 2015, and by 2017 latest. Beginning in 2021, poverty will be reduced to 15% from 45% now, progressively. Number of poor people will rise from 45 million now to 65m in 2021, and then fall to 25m in 2021. Sustainable safety nets will be established for the extreme poor until poverty is removed.

d. **Food & Nutrition.** Food deficiency will be removed and self-reliance in food production achieved by 2012, which will enable us to meet the nutrition needs of 85% of the population.

e. **Health Care.** By 2021, a minimum daily intake of 2,122 kilo calories of food, elimination of contagious disease, primary health care and sanitation for all will be ensured. Average longevity will be increased to seventy years, and efforts will be made for the reduction of child and maternal mortality.

f. **Education.** Enrolment at the primary level will be increased to 100% net by 2010. Elimination of illiteracy by 2014, improvement in the quality of education, creation of a generation educated in science and technology, graduation degree level education made free by 2013 and ensuring higher salary for teachers are the other educational goals.

g. **Industry.** A strong foundation for industrialization will be established by 2021. Contribution of the industrial sector to national GDP will be doubled. Primacy will be given to agro and labour intensive industries and the highest emphasis will be given to the information technology sector. The investment policy will be geared to implementing a strategy for attracting both domestic and foreign investment.

h. **Energy Security.** An energy policy will be adopted tapping all sources of traditional and non-traditional energy to ensure an accelerated rate of economic development and industrialization. A three year crash programme will be taken up to meet the existing crisis. By 2015, electricity production will be increased to 8,000 megawatt. By 2021, demand for electricity is projected to increase to 20,000 megawatt. We will take all possible actions aiming at enhancing our generation capacity. To increase gas production, regular survey of gas resources and work on well development will be undertaken. To meet energy demand, efforts will be undertaken for regional energy security through mutual cooperation in addition to exploring internal sources.

h. **Infrastructural Development.** Road, rail, river and air transport and telecommunication systems will be expanded. Construction of bridges and tunnels for Padma and Karnaphuli rivers, connecting Bangladesh with the Asian highway and Asian railway, improvement of port facilities, building of a deep sea port to open up Bangladesh's ports to countries of Asia will be implemented. In Dhaka, construction of a metro tunnel, elevated rail and circular rail to remove traffic jams and to solve public transport problems will be studied forthwith in order to undertake a feasible project. The project will then be implemented on a priority basis.

j. **Housing.** By 2015, housing for all will be ensured. In every union and upazila, 'growth center' centric village housing and in towns housing with modern amenities will be implemented.

k. **Environment.** All measures will be taken to protect Bangladesh, including planned migration abroad, from the adverse effects of climate change and global warming. Facing natural calamities, planned reduction of air pollution, prevention of industry and transport related air pollution and disposal of waste in scientific manner will be ensured. Steps will be taken to make Bangladesh an ecologically attractive place through retention of forests and water bodies and prevention of river erosion.

l. **Water Resources.** Bangladesh Awami League will take the initiative to formulate a comprehensive regional water policy along with India, Nepal and Bhutan for regional water security. In addition, in keeping with a comprehensive water policy, articulated earlier by Bangladesh Awami League, measures will be taken for development of our water resources and their rational use.

27. **Bangladesh in the Global Arena**

a. **Achievements of Liberation:** Multi-pronged measures will be taken to uphold the glorious history and the fruits of our national independence and liberation, to energize the new generation with the spirit of liberation, struggle, patriotism and love for humanity. Highest priority will be given to the development of an innovative spirit in the younger generations and opportunity will be provided for them to participate in nation building activities.

b. **Culture.** Measures will be taken to remove obstacles in the development of Bengali culture, literature, art, music and sport and to provide all opportunities by the state to enable the younger generations to attain international standards and to contribute to the nation.

c. **Foreign Policy.** In international affairs Bangladesh will follow the policy of 'friendship towards all and malice towards none'.

Digital Bangladesh – the Misconception

28. Digital Bangladesh does not necessarily mean one man one computer. For the near future neither does it mean Internet literacy for 100% population. But it indicates towards networking with all administrative units like, Upazila, Districts and Division. It definitely means bringing more citizens to the Information Highway- giving a bigger mass of the population access to information. Digital Bangladesh should be the first step towards the death of distance particularly for the rural people with the secretariat or any other powerhouse with whom the citizens are involved for Governance.

29. However we have to keep in mind the following assumption :

- a. Bringing 17 crore citizens (approx) on the information high way will not be easy.
- b. Bringing whole public sector under a network will not be easy.
- c. Bringing economic units of private sector under a common platform will not be easy.
- d. The aim of Digitalization in the first phase should be:
 - (1) Ensure easier access to government forms and documents by citizens.
 - (2) Ensure submission of applications, forms, and complains electronically.
 - (3) Ensure greater access to information by citizen charter and websites.
 - (4) Ensure University admission process to be digitalized except the admission test.
 - (5) Ensure greater connectivity by wireless internet.

<http://www.boi.gov.bd/about-bangladesh/government-and-policies/digital-bangladesh-overview>

TOPIC-4

FOREIGN POLICY OF BANGLADESH

Introduction

1. In this age of global interdependence, where no nation can live in isolation, every state must maintain some sort of relation with other states. This is usually done by pursuing foreign policy. In keeping with this basic fact of state practice, Bangladesh also pursues a distinct course in her relations with the external environment.

2. In the present article, an attempt has been made to analyse the aims, objectives and principles of Bangladesh foreign policy, its decision making structure and the nature of its continuity and change. These are important for understanding the bases on which Bangladesh formulates its foreign policy. We begin our discussion with a definition of foreign policy as well as national interest.

Foreign Policy Defined

3. The phrase 'foreign policy' is a combination of two separate words 'foreign' and 'policy'. But that does not mean that a state's foreign policy is 'foreign' to the hopes and aspirations of the people of that state. Usually by 'policy' we mean certain courses of action for the purpose of attaining specific goals and objectives. As Padelford, Lincoln and Olvey say, "policy is the overall result of the processes by which a state translates its broadly conceived goals and interests into specific courses of action in order to achieve its objectives and preserve its interests". A state's overall national policy may be divided into domestic policy and foreign policy. Conceptually, foreign policy is that part of a state's national policy which relates to the external environment. In a nutshell, as it has nicely been expressed by the nineteenth century Prussian diplomat and statesman prince Otto von Bismarck, the extension of domestic policy is foreign policy. For an operational definition of foreign policy, we may state that it consists of the courses of actions which a state usually undertakes in its effort to carry out its national objectives beyond the limits of its own jurisdiction.

4. Foreign policy consists of both long-term, i.e., relatively permanent interests which are to be maintained and enhanced, and declaration of specific policy objectives as they relate to particular situation arising out of any event or occurrence in international affairs having vital link with the long-term objectives. For example, the foreign policy of Bangladesh in relations with the Arab countries has permanent basis. However, in the event of any development in the Arab world arising out of, say, any new Israeli aggression, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh usually declare the position of his country as to what course she is likely to take in that particular event, keeping in mind the long-term basis of her foreign policy. It thus follows that fulfilment of national interest is the main goal of foreign policy. In fact, national interest is the basic foundation on which the foreign policy of a country is built. This is true for Bangladesh as well as any other country of the world.

National Interest Defined

5. That every state pursues foreign policy for achieving concrete goals which may be defined in terms of national interest can be shown by giving examples from the policies followed by some great powers like the United States and Great Britain. Alfred T. Mahan, a leading American geopolitician and advocate of sea power, maintained that “self interest is not only a legitimate, but a fundamental cause for national policy; it is vain to expect governments to act continuously on any other ground than national interest”. The concept of national interest in pursuing foreign policy was given a classical expression by one former British Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, when he remarked ; “We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow”.

6. Thus we can see that national interest is the most important concept which the policy makers of every country must understand, identify and reflect while formulating foreign policy. Now what do we understand by the term ‘national interest’ ? According to W. W. Rostow, “National interest is the conception which nations apply in trying to influence the world environment to their advantage”. It can be viewed as the goals of a nation for the realization of which each and every state is always busy. These goals may vary from country to country according to the capability of the state concerned. Even so, some of these goals like self-preservation, economic advancement, etc, are common to all states. National interest may be divided into two : primary interests and secondary interests. Primary interest or the core interests of a country are permanent in nature which must be maintained at all costs. But in this dynamic world, the secondary or subsidiary interests of a state may be compromised, though never fully, if the changing world political, economic, technological, military or ideological circumstances demand so.

The Aims and Objectives of the Foreign Policy of Bangladesh

7. As it has already been stated, a state pursues foreign policy to achieve its objectives in the world arena. Bangladesh is no exception to this normal state practice. The major objectives of the foreign policy of Bangladesh may be summed up as follows :

- a. Self-preservation.
- b. Economic advancement.
- c. Safeguarding as well as augmenting national power in relation to other states.
- d. Ideology’ and
- e. National prestige.

Self-Presentation

8. As it is true for all other states, self-preservation is the most vital interest of Bangladesh. A state's self-preservation refers to the maintenance of its sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity. It is inexorably linked with the protection of national security. If we accept the definition of security provided by Arnold Wolfers in terms of upholding of values previously, the importance of the question of national security of Bangladesh becomes crystal clear to us. Bangladesh emerged as an independent state after fighting a war of national liberation against the Pakistani occupation army more than a decade ago and since then our national security has been threatened on a number of occasions. Hence it is quite understandable that Bangladesh strives for guaranteeing her security to the "extent in which it is not in danger of having to sacrifice core values if it wishes to avoid war, and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by victory in such a war." Bangladesh is a peace loving country. She wants neither to engage herself in any aggressive posture against any country nor does she want to see her territory encroached by any outside power. To ensure peace, Bangladesh feels that it is only possible through protecting her national security. It is true that the question of self-preservation takes precedence to all other considerations in Bangladesh.

Economic Advancement

9. Once the national security is taken care of, the next objective of the foreign policy of Bangladesh is economic advancement. Keeping in mind that one of the major causes for the declaration of independence of Bangladesh in 1971 was economic emancipation, the national policy makers in an independent Bangladesh realize that political independence is hollow if it does not provide the vision of a good life for the average Bangladeshi. Bangladesh is a poor country but it has the potential of becoming rich if it can exploit and utilize its vast reserve of resources. It will require ceaseless effort on the part of the national policy makers to undertake the task of promoting economic development. For this, Bangladesh at present requires foreign aid and assistance for a number of years to finance her development programmes and projects.

Safeguarding as well as Augmenting National Power

10. Another major objective of the foreign policy of Bangladesh is the safeguarding as well as augmenting our nation's power. National power here refers to the total strength of the country which plays an important role in pursuing its foreign policy. It consists of a number of elements including natural resources, food and energy generation, etc. It is vital for Bangladesh to exercise full control over its total resources as well as to deny any foreign country any claim to any resource in the territory including sea-bed and territorial waters. Bangladesh must not yield to pressure of any foreign country demanding undesirable share in her resources. It is equally important that no foreign country can exercise any sort of undue influence in her decision-making process. It is the constant endeavour of our national policy makers to safeguard its national power and if possible to augment it whenever opportunity arises.

Ideology

11. Every modern state follows some ideology or at least has commitment to any major ideology prevalent in the contemporary world. Bangladesh for its part follows neither capitalist nor socialist ideology, rather she identified itself with the majority of Afro-Asian countries in following a non-aligned course in its foreign policy. It is the persistent endeavour of Bangladesh to see that unity among the non-aligned countries is maintained and the movement gets stronger day by day.

National Prestige

12. As a man cannot live on bread alone, no country for all that can remain happy with its self-preservation and economic advancement only. Bangladesh after emergence as an independent state at a time when its economy was shattered, and when it faced a number of other problems was subjected to humiliating remarks such as international basket case of bottomless basket, etc. Evidently that state of affairs for a country like ours cannot continue perpetually or even for long. So, Bangladesh must uphold its own prestige and a favourable image in the world which possible only through achieving economic development and thus standing on its own feet as a self respecting nation.

Principles of Foreign Policy of Bangladesh

13. It naturally follows the principles enshrined in the Charter of the UN and also the principles of non-alignment. Apart from these, the main principle of the foreign policy of Bangladesh was enunciated in lucid terms by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when he declared : We are a small country, we want friendship with all and malice towards none". Thus the following are the main principles of the foreign policy of Bangladesh :

- a. Friendship to all, malice to none. As Bangladesh needs foreign aid for her development, it cannot afford to antagonise any big power by joining the other bloc. More important than that, it had to fight a war of national liberation after which it wanted to guarantee that it was no longer to be dragged into power politics and used as a pawn in the Cold War between the two Super Powers.
- b. Respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of other states. This is in complete agreement with Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the UN.
- c. Non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. This principle is also in harmony with Article 2 (7) of the UN Charter. In fact, the principles are based on the well established and long standing norms that govern the behaviour of nations.
- d. A policy of peace. That Bangladesh strives for peace was foreshadowed in a declaration by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who immediately after his return to Bangladesh in January 1972 said " I would like it (Bangladesh) to become

the Switzerland of the East". The practical implication of this principle may better be understood from the writing of Professor Emajuddin Ahmed who has nicely pointed out, this policy of peace has a number of significance. First, Bangladesh believes in peaceful coexistence with its neighbours as well as other countries of the world. Secondly, Bangladesh is committed to the pacific settlement of disputes between nations. And thirdly, Bangladesh encourages peaceful change in international affairs.

- e. Desist from posing threats to international peace and security.
- f. Equality and mutual benefit.

Formation of Foreign Policy in Bangladesh

14. The formulation of foreign policy of a country is difficult task. For this a number of things such as elements of foreign policy, the domestic background, the international environment, etc., are to be taken into consideration. In the formulation of foreign policy of Bangladesh, the elements or factors of foreign policy come first. The elements of foreign policy are essentially the elements which make for the power of a nation. It also relates to the capability of the particular nation. The next consideration in Bangladesh's domestic policy. And finally, any decision on the part of policy makers in Bangladesh is inexorably linked with the configuration of the international system. Now we analyse them one by one.

Elements of Foreign Policy

15. As it has just been mentioned, the elements of foreign policy of Bangladesh are those that make for her national power. They range from such tangible factors as natural resources to energy, food production, military capability, industrial capacity to the genius of the people like leadership, national morale, quality of government and diplomacy. Geography is also a vital factor in this respect.

Geography

16. From the geographical point of view, the important aspect is the location of Bangladesh. Next comes the size and shape of the country along with her boundaries. Geography of a country is so much important in formulating foreign policy that Napoleon once said, the foreign policy of a country is determined by its geography. The importance of geographical factor may better be understood if we consider the foreign policy of Great Britain. Sir Eyre Crowe once said : "the general character of England's foreign policy is determined by the immutable conditions of her geographical situation on the Ocean flank of Europe as an island state with vast overseas colonies and dependencies, whose existence and survival as an independent community are inseparably bound up with the possession of preponderant sea power ". Geographically Bangladesh is located in very strategically important position. It is a part of South Asia. It has also geographical proximity with South-east Asia. Bangladesh is, as it were, a geographical link between these two important regions of the world. Of late, when the centre of gravity of world politics has shifted from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and especially after the US withdrawal from Vietnam in early

1970s, and a fresh naval competition between the two super powers developed for the control of the Indian Ocean, the importance of Bangladesh due to geographical location has been enhanced to a great extent.

17. But from the stand point of boundary, we see that Bangladesh is encircled by India on almost sides – West, North and East. This apparently seems to be a point of weakness on its part. Another point of weakness stems from its size and shape. It is a small country having hardly any ‘depth’ seen in terms of diversifying her national capital and industrial establishments, and thus vulnerable to any attack by outside powers. Nevertheless, it has one factor of strength, viz, the access to the Bay of Bengal. The single factor may compensate for all other weaknesses. It should be kept in mind that if Israel can continue to exist in the face of hostility of a number of Arab countries encircling her from almost three sides, there can be no reason why Bangladesh should consider her geographical position as the source of weakness. Indeed, it can exploit this in her favour through manipulation and bargaining with other powers.

Capability vs Policy Goals

18. The elements of national power of a country constitute the capability of the nation to pursue foreign policy. In fact, foreign policy formulation is concerned with striking an even balance between available to and objectives desired by that nation. As Robinson has aptly pointed out, “Foreign policy goals must not range beyond the power available, for although national desires for good and for evil are infinite the resources for obtaining them are strictly limited”. When both capability and policy goals are in even balance, we speak of rational policy. But when they are not, which very often the case, either capability of policy objectives is to be modified. There may be two possibilities, viz. Capability is greater or less than objectives. If capability is greater than policy objectives, there is only one option open to the decision-makers, viz, to increase the scope of policy objectives.

Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

19. The domestic politics of a country has important bearing on its foreign policy. The policy makers must try to understand the domestic political situation, psychology of the people and so on, while formulating foreign policy. If they ignore it, they may not remain in power. This is true in the case of democracies. In the totalitarian system also, the policy makers are careful because they fear the possibility of getting defeated in the coming party convention. It may be said that no government in Pakistan can remain in power even for a single day if it relinquishes its demand on Kashmir, for instance. In the case of Bangladesh, every government keeps in mind the sensitive feeling of the people as a whole on certain important issues which mould the domestic politics.

Domestic Policy and Foreign Policy

20. As domestic policy and foreign policy together form the national policy of a state, they have to compliment each other. Foreign policy is usually based on the requirements of the domestic policy. As Padelford, Lincoln and Olvey say : “Foreign and domestic policy must be mutually supporting if national policy aspirations are to be achieved in an atmosphere of political stability”. But perhaps nowhere this dictum seems more true than in Bangladesh where almost 60% of the annual budget and nearly 80% of the development budget is financed by external assistance. In Bangladesh, foreign policy really begins at home. Each year the domestic policy makers appraise the foreign policy makers of the amount of foreign aid which would be needed for that year, and the latter do help.

The International Environment

21. The International environment may also exert an important influence on the policy of a country. The configuration of the international system, or the distribution of power world wide, may favour a country to pursue certain course of action and the same condition may set limit to the manoeuvrability of another state. In the case of Bangladesh, the opposition faced by, and the support lent to it, during the war of national liberation was more due to the global power calculation by the big powers rather than their apathy against or sympathy for her.

Foreign Policy Decision-Making in Bangladesh

22. When we come to the actual decision-making process of Bangladesh foreign policy, we see that role of the key decision makers varies according to the system of government prevalent in Bangladesh at a particular time. When the country practices parliamentary democracy, the Prime Minister becomes the key figure. Under the Presidential system, the President plays the most important role. During a military regime, the Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA), as can be expected, exercises the crucial role in foreign policy decision-making in Bangladesh. Personality factor also plays important role here.

23. Under the democratic government, the role of the Foreign Minister is also prominent. But this is not the case when the country is ruled by the military. In such a situation, the Foreign minister usually plays a role no better than the personal adviser of CMLA. Many of the foreign policy decisions under the democratic government are taken by the cabinet as a whole which is responsible to the national parliament. This parliamentary control over the conduct of foreign affairs can no longer be expected in a martial law regime.

24. As foreign policy is the extension of domestic policy, many other related ministries, viz. Finance, planning, foreign trade, establishment, etc. Together with defence establishment, play important role in making foreign policy decisions. The role of the

foreign office in this respect is one of coordination between different ministries and governmental agencies. Of late a few research institutes like the Bangladesh Institute of Inter-national and Strategic Studies have been set up in Bangladesh which contribute to the decision making process by under-taking studies on particular problems or assure.

Conclusion

25. Professor North edge has nicely maintained that “foreign policy constitutes and endless dialogue between the powers of continuity and the powers of change”. As far as the foreign policy of Bangladesh is concerned, the most important power of continuity stems from her geographical situation which keeps a permanent imprint on the life of the nation and which every successive government has to keep in mind. It goes without saying that any normal change of government in a country brings little change in the general nature of foreign policy which usually maintains its continuity.

26. The powers of change may arise from time to time, especially in view of any sudden change in the international system with which the foreign policy of Bangladesh must be in harmony. Apart from this, the clamour for change may occur in the domestic environment owing to, say, a revolutionary change of government such as a coup d’ etat of mid August, 1975. In such circumstances, the decision makers have to assess the situation very carefully, weighing the prospect of gain and / or loss, and also-keeping an eye to the nature and extent of pressure for such a change by domestic public opinion. On the whole, the powers of change have to be tackled in such a way that the foreign policy of Bangladesh can adjust itself with the emerging realities as well as benefit the maximum possible extent.

Ref :

Foreign Policy of Bangladesh
Edited by – Emajuddin Ahmed

TOPIC- 5

MICRO CREDITS IN BANGLADESH

Background

1. Microcredit program in Bangladesh is implemented by NGOs, Grameen Bank, different types of government-owned banks, private commercial banks, and specialized programs of some ministries of Bangladesh Government etc. Despite the fact that more than a thousand of institutions are operating microcredit program, but only 10 large Microcredit Institutions (MFIs) and Grameen Bank represent 87% of total savings of the sector (around BD taka 93 billion) and 81% of total outstanding loan of the sector (around BD taka 157.82 billion). Near about two hundred thousand people are employed in MFIs and Grameen Bank. Around 30 million poor people are directly benefited from microcredit programs. Through the financial services of microcredit, these poor people are engaging themselves in various income generating activities. At present, financial service of BD taka 160 billion (approx.) is being rendered among 30 million poor people which help them to be self-employed that accelerates overall economic development process of the country.

History

2. Ideas relating to microcredit can be found at various times in modern history. Jonathan Swift inspired the Irish Loan Funds of the 18th and 19th centuries.^[2] In the mid-19th century, Individualist anarchist Lysander Spooner wrote about the benefits of numerous small loans for entrepreneurial activities to the poor as a way to alleviate poverty.^[3] Ideas relating to microcredit were mentioned in portions of the Marshall Plan at the end of World War II. The origins of microcredit in its current practical incarnation, with attention paid by economists and politicians worldwide, can be linked to several organizations founded in Bangladesh, especially the Grameen Bank in the 1970s and onward, for which its founder Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Microcredit

3. Microcredit is the programmes extend small loans to very poor people for self-employment projects that generate income, allowing them to care for themselves and their families. Definitions differ, of course, from country to country. Some of the defining criteria used include-

- a. **Size** - loans are micro, or very small in size.
- b. **Target users** - microentrepreneurs and low-income households.
- c. **Utilization** - the use of funds - for income generation, and enterprise development, but also for community use (health/education) etc.
- d. **Terms and conditions** - most terms and conditions for microcredit loans are flexible and easy to understand, and suited to the local conditions of the community.

Principles

- I
4. Microcredit is a tool for socioeconomic development. It is based on a separate set of principles, which are distinguished from general financing or credit.
- a. Microcredit emphasizes building capacity of a micro entrepreneur,
 - b. Employment generation,
 - c. Trust building, and
 - d. Help to the micro-entrepreneur on initiation and during difficult times.

Broad Classification

5. Board classification of microcredit is as under :
- a. Traditional informal microcredit (such as, moneylender's credit, pawn shops, loans from friends and relatives, consumer credit in informal market, etc.)
 - b. Microcredit based on traditional informal groups (such as, tontin, su su, ROSCA, etc.)
 - c. Activity-based microcredit through conventional or specialised banks (such as, agricultural credit, livestock credit, fisheries credit, handloom credit, etc.)
 - d. Rural credit through specialised banks.
 - e. Cooperative microcredit (cooperative credit, credit union, savings and loan associations, savings banks, etc.)
 - f. Consumer microcredit.
 - g. Bank-NGO partnership based microcredit.
 - h. Grameen type microcredit or Grameen credit.
 - j. Other types of NGO microcredit.
 - k. Other types of non-NGO non-collateralized microcredit.

Legal requirement to be an NGO-MFI

6. Organization/person willing to operate Microcredit activities in Bangladesh shall submit application to the Microcredit Regulatory Authority in Prescribed Form and Prescribed manner after getting registration as an NGO under any of the following acts:
- a. The Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860); The Trust Act, 1882 (Act II of 1882).
 - b. The Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance, 1961 (Ordinance No. XLVI of 1961).
 - c. The Companies Act, 1994 (Act XVIII of 1994).

Basic features of the Microcredit Regulatory Authority Act, 2006

7. The Act is the basic skeleton of regulatory requirements, which has a scope to expand further by formulating rules. Following are the important areas which have been covered in the law;
- a. Formation of the Authority,
 - b. Duties of the Authority,
 - c. Prerequisites of license for MFIs,
 - d. Rights and responsibilities of MFIs,
 - e. Deposit insurance fund,
 - f. Governance of MFIs,
 - g. Reserve requirement,
 - h. Profit distribution,
 - j. Operational requirement,
 - k. Illegal activities and punishment, etc.
8. Rules and regulations under the coverage of the law of Bangladesh addresses the issue of service charge, good governance, savings collection, merger, sources of fund, rights and responsibilities, reserve requirement and use of surplus fund, liquidity requirement, financial transparency, audit requirement etc.

TOPIC- 6

PEACEKEEPING MISSION AND BANGLADESH

Peacekeeping

1. Peacekeeping is defined by the United Nations as "a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the Organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace".^[4] It is distinguished from oath peace building and peacemaking. Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed. Such assistance comes in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development. Accordingly UN peacekeepers (often referred to as **Blue Beret** because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.

2. The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. For this reason, the international community usually looks to the Security Council to authorize peacekeeping operations.

3. Most of these operations are established and implemented by the United Nations itself, with troops serving under UN operational control. In these cases, peacekeepers remain members of their respective armed forces, and do not constitute an independent "UN army", as the UN does not have such a force. In cases where direct UN involvement is not considered appropriate or feasible, the Council authorizes regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Economic Community of West African States, or coalitions of willing countries to undertake peacekeeping or peace-enforcement tasks.

4. The United Nations is not the only organization to implement peacekeeping missions. Non-UN peacekeeping forces include the NATO mission in Kosovo (With United Nations authorization) and the Multinational Force and Observers on the Sinai Peninsula.

5. **Nature of Peacekeeping**. Peacekeeping is anything that contributes to the furthering of a peace process, once established. This includes, but is not limited to, the monitoring of withdrawal by combatants from a former conflict area, the supervision of elections, and the provision of reconstruction aid. Peacekeepers are often soldiers, but they do not have to be. Similarly, while soldier-peacekeepers are sometimes armed, they are not obligated to engage in combat. Peacekeepers were not at first expected to ever fight. As a general rule, they were deployed when the ceasefire was in place and the parties to the conflict had given their consent. They were deployed to observe from the ground and report impartially on adherence to the ceasefire, troop withdrawal or other elements of the peace agreement. This gave time and breathing space for diplomatic efforts to address the underlying causes of conflict. Thus, a distinction must be drawn between peacekeeping and other operations aimed at peace. A common misconception is that activities such as NATO's intervention in the Kosovo War are peacekeeping operations, when they were, in reality, peace enforcement. That is, since NATO was seeking to impose peace, rather than maintain peace, they were not peacekeepers, rather peacemakers.

Process and Structure

Once a peace treaty has been negotiated, the parties involved might ask the United Nations for a peacekeeping force to oversee various elements of the agreed upon plan. This is often done because a group controlled by the United Nations is less likely to follow the interests of any one party, since it itself is controlled by many groups, namely the 15-member Security Council and the intentionally-diverse United Nations Secretariat. If the Security Council approves the creation of a mission, then the Department of Peacekeeping Operations begins planning for the necessary elements. At this point, the senior leadership team is selected (see below). The department will then seek contributions from member nations. Since the UN has no standing force or supplies, it must form ad hoc coalitions for every task undertaken. Doing so results in both the possibility of failure to form a suitable force, and a general slowdown in procurement once the operation is in the field. While the peacekeeping force is being assembled, a variety of diplomatic activities are being undertaken by UN staff. The exact size and strength of the force must be agreed to by the government of the nation whose territory the conflict is on. The Rules of Engagement must be developed and approved by both the parties involved and the Security Council. These give the specific mandate and scope of the mission (e.g. when may the peacekeepers, if armed, use force, and where may they go within the host nation). Often, it will be mandated that peacekeepers have host government minders with them whenever they leave their base. This complexity has caused problems in the field.

7. When all agreements are in place, the required personnel are assembled, and final approval has been given by the Security Council, the peacekeepers are deployed to the region in question.

8. **Cost.** Peacekeeping costs, especially since the end of the Cold War, have risen dramatically. In 1993, annual UN peacekeeping costs had peaked at some \$3.6 billion, reflecting the expense of operations in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia. By 1998, costs had dropped to just under \$1 billion. With the resurgence of larger-scale operations, costs for UN peacekeeping rose to \$3 billion in 2001. In 2004, the approved budget was \$2.8 billion, although the total amount was higher than that. For the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2006, UN peacekeeping costs were about US\$5.03 billion. All member states are legally obliged to pay their share of peacekeeping costs under a complex formula that they themselves have established. Despite this legal obligation, member states owed approximately \$1.20 billion in current and back peacekeeping dues as of June 2004.

9. **Structure.** A United Nations peacekeeping mission has three power centers. The first is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the official leader of the mission. This person is responsible for all political and diplomatic activity, overseeing relations with both the parties to the peace treaty and the UN member-states in general. They are often a senior member of the Secretariat. The second is the Force Commander, who is responsible for the military forces deployed. They are a senior officer of their nation's armed services, and are often from the nation committing the highest number of troops to the project. Finally, the Chief Administrative Officer oversees supplies and logistics, and coordinates the procurement of any supplies needed.

10. **Bangladesh in UNPKO.** Bangladesh became a full-member of the United Nations in September 1974, Bangladesh-UN co-operation started on humanitarian grounds, immediately after the attainment of its statehood. Over the years, Bangladesh's relations with the World Body grew further and developed into a partnership in different areas because of several other reasons.

- a. First, its constitution, which came into force in 1972, commits to base its international relations on the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes and respect for international law and the principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations and to strive for general and complete disarmament. (Article 25)
- b. Secondly, the UN has remained a major pillar of Bangladesh's foreign policy ever since it joined the World Body and this has not changed despite many changes in its government.
- c. Thirdly, with the help of its widespread linkages as well as membership of several international groupings, Bangladesh has long been directing its efforts towards projecting a new international identity through the UN and other international and multilateral forums. The aim is to offset the constraints on its foreign policy arising from its geographical position and economic realities.
- d. Fourthly, Bangladesh has ratified or acceded to most of the UN instruments such as conventions and treaties and actively participated in all major UN conferences.
- e. Last but not the least, Bangladesh's performances in major UN forums like the General Assembly and the Security Council have helped to enhance its credibility and image in UN circle. As a consequence, it could secure important positions such as the President of the General Assembly, Chairman of various Commissions and Committees, and Executive Member of a number of UN bodies and specialised agencies.

11. In the **General Assembly**, Bangladesh has played an important role on a number of issues during the last three decades. Bangladesh's efforts have been primarily focused on Arab-Israeli conflict, decolonization and economic problems. By 1980 it emerged as the leader of the least developed countries. However, true to its constitutional obligation, it has also showed considerable interest in multilateral disarmament and arms limitation, which is central to UN efforts to maintain international peace and security. In late 1978 Bangladesh served as a member of the preparatory committee to the Assembly's Special Session Devoted to disarmament in which it also actively participated. Although Bangladesh has no known expertise in the field, its diplomatic position on the issue improved to some extent in August 1979 when it acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) "in the interest of global peace and in its own larger national interests." In the Assembly Bangladesh has all along been quite active in behind-the-scene negotiations on the various items concerning disarmament as it has co-sponsored a large number of draft resolutions on the issue. Further, Bangladesh has time and again advocated that energies and resources of the international community should be spent on peace and development. In the context of developing a fruitful partnership on peace and security Bangladesh's role in the Security Council should be considered all the more significant because the UN organ is specifically charged with the responsibility of maintaining the same.

12. Bangladesh's **first term** (1979-80) in the Security Council happened to be a distinct phase of the Cold War. In addition to the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea, the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, Iranian hostage issue, the Iran-Iraq war and African issues such as independence of Rhodesia and arms embargo against South Africa figured prominently in the agenda. Bangladesh's joint efforts with other non-aligned member-nations to circumvent the Soviet vetoes on Kampuchea and Afghanistan failed, but its similar efforts on dismantling of Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territories, despite the known US position, proved to be successful on quite a few occasions. On the hostage issue, in keeping

RESTRICTED

with the recognized principle of international law, Bangladesh supported the resolution for the release of American diplomats held in Tehran. But Bangladesh disagreed on the question of application of sanctions because it believed such measures would exacerbate the existing situation. Subsequent events proved the correctness of the position of Bangladesh. In the same period Bangladesh supervised on behalf of the UN the elections in Rhodesia leading to its independence as Zimbabwe and was elected as the Chairman of the Security Council's Committee on Arms Embargo in South Africa.

13. During Bangladesh's **second term** (2000-2001), under the changed diplomatic situation too, it played a significant role in the Council. Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and East Timor dominated the agenda. For Bangladesh the task was onerous, but still it was able to break some new grounds. For instance, it was on the proposal of Bangladesh that for the first time a debate was held on the humanitarian dimension of the role of the Security Council. During the period Bangladesh also made important contributions as the Chairman of the two committees, namely the Committee Concerning Sierra Leone and the Working Committee on the Role of Sanctions.

14. On the specific issues, Bangladesh showed special interest in peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone and expressed concern about the working of UN transitional authority in Kosovo. In April 2000, Bangladesh led a 10-member delegation of the Council to Kosovo to comprehend the challenges faced by the UN mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Such a leadership role by a non-permanent member is rare in the history of the Security Council. Diplomatic efforts have provided the essential background for the Bangladesh-UN partnership, which has blossomed over the years encompassing many areas.

15. Since Bangladesh is an ardent and active proponent of UN's call for preservation and promotion of international peace and security it showed no reservation in participating in UN peacekeeping missions. Bangladesh's involvement in peacekeeping operations began in 1988 when it participated in two operations - one in Iraq (UNIIMOG) and the other in Namibia (UNTAG) and in subsequent 22 years or so it was associated with as many as 30 UNPKOs in 25 countries around the globe. As of Dec 2005, about 60,000 personnel from Bangladesh armed forces participated in these endeavors, contributing thereby the second largest troop in the field of global peacekeeping. The performance of Bangladesh's contingents under varying conditions has been of a high order as it is marked by unflinching commitment, dedication and competence.

16. While carrying out their duties as peacekeepers under intense risk and hostile situation, as many as 64 brave sons of our soil have sacrificed their lives in the interest of world peace but our national commitment to the lofty cause has remained undiminished. UN's support to Bangladesh in socio-economic development is of crucial significance. Indeed, Bangladesh's success in its struggle for higher standard of living depends much upon its partnership with the UN.

17. The world has been passing through one of the most intricate moments in history. The emergence of a unipolar world and the tendency of the most powerful country to bypass the UN and resort to unilateral action has given rise to fear about the future of the smaller nations. But we cannot afford to lose faith in humanity, nor is there any alternative to the United Nations. As the world public opinion is growing, we have every hope that the United Nations will soon be able to overcome the present crisis and play its due role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, the World Body needs to be strengthened and so is the need for further growth of the UN-Bangladesh partnership.

TOPIC-7

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH

Introduction

1. Bangladesh is mainly alluvial deltaic plain divided into three zones, namely hills, terraces and flood plain based on geomorphology and physiographic. The country has an approximate area of 147,570 sq.km. bounded between 20°34' to 26°38' N latitude and 88°01' to 92° 41' E longitude and has 4,685 km. long boundary unique geographical location in South Asia forming lower part of the basins of three mighty rivers , the Padma (Known as the Ganges in India), the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. Bangladesh with its fragile state of economy depends predominantly on agriculture which has strong linkage with seasonal weather systems. The land is frequently visited by natural hazards of which floods, cyclones with accompanying storm surges, droughts, tornadoes, river-bank erosions and earthquake are the most disastrous to mention. Bangladesh, which is also in close proximity with the Himalayas , have a long history of seismic tremors. Four great earthquakes of magnitude exceeding eight during 1897, 1905, 1934, 1950 and another 10 earthquakes exceeding magnitude belt during the last 100 years. The colossal losses of lives and properties caused by natural disasters with repeated frequency in short intervals make Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone country in the world.

2. DMB is a small dynamic professional unit at national level to perform specialist support functions working in close collaboration with District and Thana–level authorities, and the concerned line ministries under the overall authority of high–level inter-ministerial committee (IMDMCC). It is a technical arm to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) to overview and co-ordinate all activities related to disaster management from national down to the grass-root level.

Definition of Disaster

3. An event, natural or man-made, sudden or progressive, that seriously disrupts the functioning of a society, causing human, material, or environmental losses of such severity that the affected community has to respond by taking exceptional measures. The disruption, (including essential services and means of livelihood) is on a scale that exceeds the ability of the affected society to cope with using only its own resources.

Disaster Management

4. Disaster management includes all aspects of planning of and responding to disasters. It refers to the management of both the risk and the consequences of disasters, and includes both : prevention and preparedness measures taken in disaster-prone areas in anticipation of the known hazards – often referred to as “pre-disaster” and long-term rehabilitation (sometimes referred to as “reconstruction”).

Phases Of Disaster Management

5. **Normal Phase (Normal Time)**. A period when there is no immediate threat but long-term actions are required in anticipation of the impact, at some unknown time in the future, of known hazards.
6. **Alert and Warning Phase** The period from the issuing of an alert or public warning of an imminent disaster threat to its actual impact, or the passage of the threat and the lifting of the warning. The period during which pre-impact precautionary, or disaster containment measures are taken.
7. **Disaster Phase**. The period during which direct impact of a natural calamity is felt. Disaster phase is long in case of slow on-set disasters (droughts, normal monsoon flood) and short in case of rapid on-set disasters (flash flood, cyclone, earthquake, fire, industrial accident, landslide etc.).
8. **Recovery Phase**. The period, following the emergency phase, during which actions are to be taken to enable victims to resume normal lives and means of livelihood, and to restore infrastructure, services and the economy in a manner appropriate to long-term needs and defined development objectives.

Disaster Management Strategy

9. After the floods of late 1980s and the killer cyclone of 1991, the concept of acting only after the occurrence of disaster has been replaced by the concept of total disaster management involving prevention / mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and development. The GoB has, therefore, total commitment towards reduction of human, economic and environmental costs of disasters by enhancing overall disaster management capacity. Efforts have been continuing for optimum coordination and best utilization of resources along-with ensuring community involvement so that they are aware of what they can do for protecting their lives and properties against disasters. The plan and conduct of disaster management by GoB involve preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation as key notes for building up self-reliance of the community people.

Disaster Management Practice

10. The existing system for disaster management in the country covers activities at normal times for important disaster management aspects like mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Government as part of disaster management have been trying to develop it's scientific networking in respect of disaster forecasting and early warning. With grant of Japan Government, replacement of radar at Agargaon, Dhaka ,

establishment of a new radar at Rangpur and a satellite ground receiving station at SWC, Dhaka have been completed last year to enhance the capability of SWC of Bangladesh Meteorological. Department Substantial progress in the expansion of flood forecasting and warning services (FAP-10) in the country has been made with the help of Danish Hydraulic Institute.

11. **Disaster Mitigation.** GoB gives equal importance to both structural as well as non-structural mitigation measures.

a. **Structural Mitigation.** As part of structural mitigation measures, GoB and other development agencies has so far constructed 2,895 cyclone shelters and 200 flood shelters.

d. **Non-Structural Mitigation.** For non-structural mitigation GoB has given emphasis on Legislation & Policy.

e. Draft Disaster Management Act has finalized with the purpose of providing for the formulation of disaster management policy relating to preparedness and emergency measures, and rehabilitation program to deal with disaster.

f. Approved National Disaster Management Plan- Approved Revised Standing Order on Disaster.

g. As part of public awareness activities, booklets containing information about cyclone, flood etc. and calendar, posters depicting disaster points have been regularly printed and distributed up to the grass-root levels.

h. To raise awareness among the students on various hazards/disaster management, a chapter on disaster management has been included in the educational curricula from classes V to XII.

j. GoB has decided to make compulsory a session of at least 02 hours on disaster management in the training curricula of all types of Training Institutes to train officials and non officials.

12. **Emergency Response.** For the purpose of emergency information exchange and relief management, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been established in the Disaster Management and Relief Division under the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) as operational unit.

EOC gets activated with the first information of the disaster emergency situation and works on the overall direction from Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee (IMDMCC)/MoFDM for handling all aspects of emergency situation.

The emergency relief management system during disasters recognizes the key role of the cabinet Secretary in the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination and in supervising the district administration and ensures the services of the Armed Forces as well as NGOs working in the country. Play Armed Forces (Navy, Air and Infantry) a vital role in the rescue and relief Operation during and after of any Disaster.

Under the system, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR) within the administrative control of the Disaster Management and Relief Division under the MoFDM acts during emergency situation and operates relief activities for distribution to the remote field levels. A small dynamic professional unit known as DMB under the administrative control of Disaster Management Relief Division under the MoFDM performs specialist functions at the time of emergency to help EOC by extending technical support services through MIS/GIS for information exchange.

In addition, there exists Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) which plays very useful role during cyclone.

Disaster Management Mechanism

13. GoB has formulated a set of mechanisms to maintain proper co-ordination amongst the concerned Ministries, organizations and line agencies and also to ensure their effective functioning during emergency. For the mechanisms to be operative, a guidebook named 'Standing Orders on Disaster' has been published as a basic tool. The Standing Orders outline the activities of each Ministry, major agencies / Departments so as to handle emergency situations efficiently. In the efforts of making the mechanisms clear and comprehensive, National Policy on Disaster Management has been designed and under process for final approval. The initial operational direction and co-ordination for any disaster situation come from the highest level of institutional arrangement (i.e.; NDMC) through second highest authority IMDMCC for overall disaster management in the country. Committees from National to Grassroot levels (i.e. DDMC, UzDMC and UDMC) under the framework of disaster management guidebook i.e. Standing Orders on Disaster work on Disaster Management.

Urban Disaster Management in Bangladesh

14. Significant urban problems are mounting at an increasing rate in Bangladesh. Rapid urbanization together with cumulative threats from increased exposures to urban flooding

aggravated by drainage congestion, urban and industrial fires, air-pollution from the emission of exhaust gas from variety of automobiles, unplanned high rising buildings without adequate safety against fire, earthquake, gas and chemical hazards. The high rise residential buildings are being built in any available open spaces, ditches, swamps and canals without relevant safety measures. The urban hazards except the earthquake such as fire, technological hazards, drainage congestion and flash flood, air pollution are manmade and are within the knowledge and capability of the Government, NGO and private sector to reduce and prevent completely. Urban disaster management measures are being implemented.

The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme

15. The comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) is a project run in Bangladesh under UNDP. The project aims to further reduce Bangladesh's vulnerability to adverse natural and anthropogenic hazards and extreme events, including the devastating potential impacts of climate change. It will do so through risk management and mainstreaming. CDMP II is a natural expansion and a logical scaling up of its first phase. That pioneering phase laid the foundations for institutionalising the risk reduction approaches and frameworks developed through pilot testing. CDMP II aims to institutionalise the adoption of risk reduction approaches, not just in its host Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, but more broadly across thirteen key ministries and agencies.

16. CDMP II (2010-2014) is a vertical and horizontal expansion of its Phase I activities designed based on the achievements, lessons learned and the strong foundation laid during CDMP I by continuing the processes initiated, deriving actions from the lessons learned, utilizing knowledge resources generated and knowledge products published. The approach of CDMP II is to channel support through government and development partners, civil society and NGOs into a people-oriented disaster management and risk reduction partnership. That partnership will promote cooperation, provide coordination, rank priority programmes and projects, and allocate resources to disaster management activities, risk reduction activities and climate change adaptation activities in Bangladesh.

17. CDMP II offers an outstanding opportunity to improve linkages with, and synergies between, disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. This applies both at the community and at the general stakeholder level. The linkages are clearly expressed in many of the activities outlined in the operational outcomes of the project design, as well as through strengthened institutional capacities.

18. CDMP II is designed around the following six interrelated outcome areas:
- a. **Outcome 1.** Development of strong, well-managed and professional institutions in Bangladesh that is able to implement a comprehensive range of risk reduction programmes and interventions at the national level, as well as contributing to regional actions, international learning and best practice.
 - b. **Outcome 2.** Reduced risk to rural populations through structural and non-structural interventions, empowerment of rural communities and improved awareness of, and planning for, natural hazard events, including the likely impacts of climate change.
 - c. **Outcome 3.** Reduced risk to urban populations through structural and non-structural interventions, improved awareness of natural hazard events and the piloting of urban community risk reduction methodologies targeting the extreme poor.
 - d. **Outcome 4.** Improved overall effectiveness and timeliness of disaster preparedness and response in Bangladesh by strengthening management capacity and co-ordination as well as networking facilities at all levels.
 - e. **Outcome 5.** Better disaster-proofing of development funding across thirteen ministries. This will be achieved by generating increased awareness of hazard risks and the provision of technical information, advisory services and resources to stimulate positive changes in planning and investment decisions over the long-term.
 - f. **Outcome 6.** Community-level adaptation to disaster risks from a changing climate is effectively managed.

Conclusion

19. The various types of disaster are regular in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Govt has formulated different policy formulating various committee at different levels of the govt. The committee gives guideline to the designated agencies for implementing the Stand and Operating Procedure so as to reduce the effect of disaster.

Ref :

For More Information Please Visit <http://www.cdmp.org.bd>

TOPIC - 8

WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE

Ref:

A. GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE, 1986 (Revised up to December 2003)

B. Cabinet Division [Published in the Bangladesh Gazette, Extraordinary, dated the 20th September, 1986.

1. President of the Republic
2. Prime Minister of the Republic
3. Speaker of the Parliament
4. Chief Justice of Bangladesh Former Presidents of the Republic
5. Cabinet Ministers of the Republic Chief Whip
Deputy Speaker of the Parliament
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
6. Persons holding appointments accorded status of a Minister without being members of the Cabinet
7. Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries accredited to Bangladesh.
8. Chief Election Commissioner. Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament. Judges of the Supreme Court (Appellate Division) Ministers of State of the Republic Whip.
9. Election Commissioners. Judges of the Supreme Court (High Court Division) Persons holding appointments accorded status of a Minister of State.
10. Deputy Ministers of the Republic.
11. Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary accredited to Bangladesh. Persons holding appointments accorded status of a Deputy Minister. -2-
12. Cabinet Secretary Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Principal Secretary to the Government.
13. Members of the Parliament.

RESTRICTED

14. Visiting Ambassadors and High Commissioners not accredited to Bangladesh.
15. Attorney-General Comptroller and Auditor-General Ombudsman.
Governor, Bangladesh Bank.
16. Chairman, Public Service Commission.

Chairman, University Grants commission.

Inspector General of Police.

Members, Planning Commission.

Officers of the rank of Major General in the army and equivalent in the Navy
and the Air force.

Secretaries to the Government including Secretary to the Parliament.
17. Charge-d' affaires apied of Foreign Countries.

Director General of the National Security Intelligence.

Full-time Members, University Grants Commission.

National Professors.

Officers holding the status of Secretaries to the Government.

Vice-chancellors of Universities.
18. Mayors of Civic Corporation within the jurisdiction of their respective Corporations.
19. Additional Attorney-General.

Additional Secretaries to the Government.

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission.

Chairman, Board of Land Administration.

Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

Chairman, Bangladesh chemical Industries Corporation.

Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

Chairman, Bangladesh Oil, Gas And Mineral Corporation.

RESTRICTED

Chairman, Bangladesh Power Development Board.

Chairman, Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation.

Chairman, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation.

Chairman, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation.

Chairman, Bangladesh Water Development Board.

Chairman, Tarrif commission.

Charge-d' affaires ad-interim of Foreign Countries.

Director- General of Anti-Corruption.

Executive Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

Managing Director, Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

Managing Director, Sonali Bank.

Professors of Universities in Selection Grade.

Visiting Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Bangladesh.

20. Chairman, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Chairman Tea Board.

Chairman T&T Board.

Chief Architect to the Government.

Chief Conservator of Forests.

Chief Engineer, Roads and Highways Department.

Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority.

Director- General, Department of Agriculture Extension.

Director of Fisheries.

Director- General of Health Services.

Director of Livestock Services.

Director General, of Primary Education.

Director General, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.

RESTRICTED

Director-General of Technical Education.
Division Chief, Planning commission.
Managing Director Bangladesh Biman.
Managing Director, of other Nationalised Commercial Banks.
Members of the National Board of Revenue.
Members, Public Service Commission.
Officers of the status of Additional Secretary to the Government.
Registrar of Supreme Court.
Vice-Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau.

21. Additional Inspector-General of Police.
Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.
Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation.
Chairman, Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation.
Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority.
Chairman, Dhaka Improvement Trust.
Chairman, National Broadcasting Authority.
Chairman, Petroleum Corporation.
Chairman, Port Authority.
Chairman, Rural Electrification Board.
Chairman, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.
Chairman, Water And Sewerage Authority.
Chairman, Bangladesh Hand Loom Board.
Chairman, Bangladesh Sericulture Board.
Chairman, Bangladesh Jute corporation.
Chairman, Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation.
Chairman, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation.
Chairman, Bangladesh Tourism Corporation.
Chairman, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation.
Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.
Chief Engineer, Housing and Settlement Department.
Chief Engineer of Public Health Engineering Department. -4-
Commissioners of Divisions within their respective charges.

RESTRICTED

Director, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Sugar and food Industries Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director-General of Ansars & VDP.

Director, General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board.

Director, General Department of Immigration and Passport.

Director, General of Export Promotion Bureau.

Director, General Fire Services and Civil Defence.

Director, General of Food.

Director, General of Geological Survey.

Director, General of Industries.

Director, General of Land Record and Surveys.

Director, General of Post Offices.

Director, General population Control.

Director, General of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Director, General Shipping.

General Manager of Bangladesh Railway.

Joint Secretaries to the Government.

Managing Director, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation.

Managing Director of the Financial Institutions.

Managing Director, Jiban Bima Corporation.

Managing Director, Sadharan Bima Corporation.

Managing Director, Bangladesh Film Development Corporation

Member, Atomic Energy Commission (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

RESTRICTED

Member, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh Power Development Board (if full-time member of the board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh Water Development Board (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Ministers and Deputy High Commissioners of the rank of Ministers in Embassies, High Commissions and Missions Located in Bangladesh.

Officers of the rank of Brigadier in the Army and equivalent in the Navy and the Air Force.

Registrar, Co-operative Societies.

Surveyor General of Bangladesh.

22. Additional Chief Architect.

Additional Chief Engineers of Government Departments.

Additional Director-General, Health Services.

Chairman, Chittagong Development Authority

Chairman, Rajshahi Development Authority.

Chairman, Khulna Development Authority

Collectors of Customs and Excise

Commissioners of Divisions outside their respective charges.

Commissioners of Taxes.

Consuls General.

Controller General of Accounts

Controller General of Defence Finance.

Counsellors of Embassies, High Commissions and Legations of Foreign

RESTRICTED

and Commonwealth Government.

Deputy Inspectors General of Police within their respective charges.

Director of Agriculture Extension.

Director of General, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute.

Director General, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute.

Director General, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

Director General, Department of Social Services.

Director General, National Institute of Mass Communication.

Director General of Youth Development Department.

Director, Military lands and Cantonment.

Director General, Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre.

Director General, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute.

Inspector General of Prisons.

Joint Chief, Planning Commission.

Member, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh export Processing Zone Authority (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Tea Board (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Officers of the rank of Full Colonel in the Army and equivalent in the Navy and the Air Force.

Officers of the status of Joint Secretary to the Government.

Principals of Medical and Engineering Colleges and Professors of Universities.

RESTRICTED

23. Additional Commissioners (within respective charges).

Director, Bangladesh Jute Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Forest Industries Corporation (if full-time member of Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Tourism Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (if full-time of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director of Education.

Director, Petroleum Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Director, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Mayors of Civic Corporations outside their respective charges.

Member, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

[Member, Bangladesh Handloom Board (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh Sericulture Board (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Civil Aviation Authority (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Port Authority (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Rural Electrification Board (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).

Member, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (if full time member of the Board of Directors).

Military, Naval and Air Attaches to Embassies and Legations and Military, Naval and Air Advisors to High Commissions.

Professors of Medical and Engineering Colleges.

RESTRICTED

24. Chairmen of District Councils (if elected) within their respective charges.
Commandant, Marine Academy.
Deputy Commissioners within their respective charges.
Deputy Inspectors General of Police outside their charges.
Director, Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Center (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).
Director, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (if full-time member of the Board of Directors).
District and Sessions Judges within their respective charges.
Officers of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and equivalent in the Navy and the Air Force.

25. Chairmen (if elected) of class I Municipalities within their charges.
Chairmen of Upazila parishads within their respective charges.
Civil Surgeons within their respective charge.
Deputy Secretaries of the government.
Officers of the rank of Major in the Army and equivalent in the Navy and the Air Force.
Superintendents of Police within their respective charges.

Notes:

1. The order in the Warrant of Precedence is to be observed for State and ceremonial occasions as well as for all purpose of the Government.
2. The entries in the above table, which are in alphabetical order on each article, apply exclusively to the persons mentioned in the table of precedence and, while regulating their relative precedence with each other do not give them any precedence over members of the non-official community in Bangladesh, not mentioned in the table who shall take their place according to usage.
3. Persons in the above table will take precedence in order of the number of the entries. Those included in the same number will take precedence inter se according to the date of entry into that number. When two or more persons enter an article on the same date, their inter se seniority will be fixed in the basis of length of class I service, in case of officers, and in the case on an elected office bearer given precedence over permanent Government servants entering the article on the same date. Amongst elected office-bearers entering article on the same date precedence will be accorded by alphabetical order of the surname. Officers of the Defense Services, in the same article will rank inter se according to their relative service seniority.

RESTRICTED

4. When a person holds more than one position in the table, he will be entitled to the highest position accorded to him.
5. Officers who are temporarily officiating in any number of the table he will take precedence in that number below permanent incumbents.
6. All officers not mentioned in the above table, whose rank is regulated by comparison with rank in the Army will have the same precedence with reference to Civil Servant as is enjoyed by military officers of equivalent grades (see table of equivalent ranks given under note 9 below).
7. Married ladies, unless by virtue of holding an appointment themselves they are entitled to a higher position in the table, shall take place according to the precedence herein assigned to their respective husbands.
8. All other persons not mentioned in the above table will take precedence according to general usage, which is to be explained and determined by the President in case any question shall arise.
9. Table of Equivalent Ranks:

<u>Army</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Air Force</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal	Reserve and Non-Regular Officers take Precedence in the same rank after regular officers holding the same rank.
Lieutenant General	Vice-Admiral	Air Marshal	
Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice-Marshal	
Brigadier	Commander	Air Commodore	When called Up for embodied (Whole-time) service they take seniority in their substantive rank as on date of recall with but immediately after regular Officers holding the same substantive rank on that date.
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain	
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander	
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader	
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant	By order of the President M.M. Zaman Cabinet Secretary.
Lieutenant	Sub-Lieutenant	Flying Officer	
Second Lieutenant	Acting Sub-Lieutenant	Pilot Officer	

Ref : www.cabinet.gov.bd/file_upload/CD_LEGISLATIVE_INFO_en_2

TASK-9

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) IN BANGLADESH

Introduction

1. A Non-governmental Organization (**NGO**) is a legally constituted organization created by natural or legal persons that operates independently from any government and a term usually used by governments to refer to entities that have no government status. In the cases in which NGOs are funded totally or partially by governments, the NGO maintains its non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from membership in the organization. The term is usually applied only to organizations that pursue some wider social aim that has political aspects, but that are not overtly political organizations such as political parties. Unlike the term "intergovernmental organization", the term "non-governmental organization" has no generally agreed legal definition. In many jurisdictions, these types of organization are called "civil society organizations" or referred to by other names. The number of internationally operating NGOs is estimated at 40,000. National numbers are even higher: Russia has 277,000 NGOs; India is estimated to have around 3.3 million NGOs. NGOs are defined by the World Bank as "private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development".

History

2. International non-governmental organizations have a history dating back to at least 1839. It has been estimated that by 1914 there were 1083 NGOs. International NGOs were important in the anti-slavery movement and the movement for women's suffrage, and reached a peak at the time of the World Disarmament Conference. However, the phrase "non-governmental organization" only came into popular use with the establishment of the United Nations Organization in 1945 with provisions in Article 71 of Chapter 10 of the United Nations Charter for a consultative role for organizations which are neither governments nor member states—see Consultative Status. The definition of "international NGO" (INGO) is first given in resolution 288 (X) of ECOSOC on February 27, 1950: it is defined as "any international organization that is not founded by an international treaty". The vital role of NGOs and other "major groups" in sustainable development was recognized in Chapter 27 of Agenda 21, leading to intense arrangements for a consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Rapid development of the non-governmental sector occurred in western countries as a result of the processes of restructuring of the welfare state. Further globalization of that process occurred after the fall of the communist system and was an important part of the Washington consensus.^[7] Globalization during the 20th century gave rise to the importance of NGOs. Many problems could not be solved within a nation. International treaties and international organizations such as the World Trade Organization were perceived as being too centred on the interests of capitalist enterprises. Some argued that in an attempt to counterbalance this trend, NGOs have developed to emphasize humanitarian issues, developmental aid and sustainable development. A prominent example of this is the World Social Forum, which is a rival convention to the World Economic Forum held annually in January in Davos, Switzerland. The fifth World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January 2005 was attended by representatives from more than 1,000 NGOs. Some have argued that in forums like these,

NGOs take the place of what should belong to popular movements of the poor. Others argue that NGOs are often imperialist in nature, that they sometimes operate in a racialized manner in world countries, and that they fulfill a similar function to that of the clergy during the high colonial era. The philosopher Peter Hallward argues that they are an aristocratic form of politics. Whatever the case, NGO transnational networking is now extensive.

NGO Areas of Activity Focus

3. NGOs are involved in a very diverse range of human activities, and human influence on the environment. These activities are usually typical, but oriented at different stages of societies. They are generally involved in: local, popular, economic or political.

Types of NGOs

4. NGO type can be understood by orientation and level of co-operation.

a. **NGO Type by Orientation**

- (1) Charitable orientation.
- (2) Service orientation.
- (3) Participatory orientation.
- (4) Empowering orientation.

b. **NGO Type by Level of Co-operation**

- (1) Community- Based Organization.
- (2) City Wide Organization.
- (3) National NGOs.
- (4) International NGOs.

c. Apart from "NGO", often alternative terms are used as for example: independent sector, volunteer sector, civil society, grassroots organizations, transnational social movement organizations, private voluntary organizations, self-help organizations and non-state actors (NSA's). Non-governmental organizations are a heterogeneous group. A long list of acronyms has developed around the term "NGO".

d. There are also numerous classifications of NGOs. The typology the World Bank uses divides them into Operational and Advocacy:

5. **Purpose of NGO**

a. The primary purpose of an operational NGO is the design and implementation of development-related projects. One frequently used categorization is the division into *relief-oriented* versus *development-oriented* organizations; they can also be classified according to whether they stress service delivery or participation; or whether

they are religious or secular; and whether they are more public or private-oriented. Operational NGOs can be community-based, national or international.

6. The primary purpose of an Advocacy NGO is to defend or promote a specific cause. As opposed to operational project management, these organizations typically try to raise awareness, acceptance and knowledge by lobbying, press work and activist events.

Public Relations

6. Non-governmental organisations need healthy relationships with the public to meet their goals. Foundations and charities use sophisticated public relations campaigns to raise funds and employ standard lobbying techniques with governments. Interest groups may be of political importance because of their ability to influence social and political outcomes. A code of ethics was established in 2002 by The World Association of Non Governmental NGOs.

Project Management

7. There is an increasing awareness that management techniques are crucial to project success in non-governmental organizations. Generally, non-governmental organizations that are private have either a community or environmental focus. They address varieties of issues such as religion, emergency aid, or humanitarian affairs. They mobilize public support and voluntary contributions for aid; they often have strong links with community groups in developing countries, and they often work in areas where government-to-government aid is not possible. NGOs are accepted as a part of the international relations landscape, and while they influence national and multilateral policy-making, increasingly they are more directly involved in local action.

Staffing

7. Not all people working for non-governmental organizations are volunteers. There is some dispute as to whether expatriates should be sent to developing countries. Frequently this type of personnel is employed to satisfy a donor who wants to see the supported project managed by someone from an industrialized country. However, the expertise these employees or volunteers may be counterbalanced by a number of factors: the cost of foreigners is typically higher, they have no grassroots connections in the country they are sent to, and local expertise is often undervalued. The NGO sector is an important employer in terms of numbers. For example, by the end of 1995, CONCERN worldwide, an international Northern NGO working against poverty, employed 174 expatriates and just over 5,000 national staff working in ten developing countries in Africa and Asia, and in Haiti.

Funding

9. Large NGOs may have annual budgets in the hundreds of millions or billions of dollars. For instance, the budget of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) was over US\$540 million in 1999. Funding such large budgets demands significant fundraising efforts on the part of most NGOs. Major sources of NGO funding are membership dues, the sale of goods and services, grants from international institutions or

national governments, and private donations. Several EU-grants provide funds accessible to NGOs. Even though the term "non-governmental organization" implies independence from governments, most NGOs depend heavily on governments for their funding. Some NGOs, such as Greenpeace do not accept funding from governments or intergovernmental organizations.

Monitoring and Control

10. The governments of the countries an NGO works or is registered in may require reporting or other monitoring and oversight. Funders generally require reporting and assessment, such information is not necessarily publicly available. There may also be associations and watchdog organizations that research and publish details on the actions of NGOs working in particular geographic or program areas. In recent years, many large corporations have increased their responsibility departments in an attempt to preempt NGO campaigns against certain corporate practices. As the logic goes, if corporations work *with* NGOs, NGOs will not work *against* corporations.

Legal Status

10. The legal form of NGOs is diverse and depends upon homegrown variations in each country's laws and practices.

Unincorporated and voluntary association

Trusts, charities and foundations

Companies not just for profit

Entities formed or registered under special NGO or nonprofit laws

11. NGOs are not subjects of international law, as states are. An exception is the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is subject to certain specific matters, mainly relating to the Geneva Convention. The Council of Europe in Strasbourg drafted the European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organizations in 1986, which sets a common legal basis for the existence and work of NGOs in Europe. Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights protects the right to freedom of association, which is also a fundamental norm for NGOs.

The State, Laws and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Bangladesh

12. **NGOs in Bangladesh.** Since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the state has largely failed to assist the poor or reduce poverty, while NGOs have grown dramatically, ostensibly to fill this gap. There are more and bigger NGOs here than in any other country of equivalent size. The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) had a total membership of 886 NGOs/PVDOs (Private Voluntary Development Organisations) in December 1997, of which 231 were central and 655 chapter (local) members (ADAB, 1998). The ADAB Directory lists 1007 NGOs, including 376 non-member NGOs. The NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB), which has to approve all foreign grants to NGOs working in Bangladesh, released grants worth about

\$250 million US dollars in FY 1996-97 to 1,132 NGOs, of which 997 are local and 135 are foreign (NGO Affairs Bureau, 1998). NGOs have mainly functioned to service the needs of the landless, usually assisted by foreign donor funding as a counterpoint to the state's efforts (Lewis, 1993). Some NGOs have shown success in providing services like education, health and microfinance to their clients and promoting human rights- particularly women's rights. This has been accompanied by backlash from the local elite, religious leaders and organisations.

13. NGOs in Bangladesh have not originated from Grass Roots Organisations (GROs) in civil society. Rather, it is NGO workers who set up groups, which clients then join to get microcredit and other services. Most Bangladeshi NGOs are totally dependent upon foreign funds. The volume of foreign funds to NGOs in Bangladesh has been increasing over the years and stood at just under 18 percent of all foreign "aid" to the country in FY 1995-96. Donors increased their funding from 464 NGO projects in 1990-91 to 746 in 1996-97, a 60 percent increase in six years; the total amount disbursed showed a 143 percent increase over the period (NGO Affairs Bureau, 1998). However, the disbursement of funds to NGOs is highly skewed. The top 15 NGOs accounted for 84 percent of all allocation to NGOS in 1991-92, and 70 percent in 1992-93 (Hashemi, 1995). NGO dependence on donor grants has kept the whole operation highly subsidised by foreign capital. For example, the annual working costs of BRAC's (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, one of the largest NGOs in Bangladesh) branch-level units are still more than three times their locally generated income (Montgomery et al., 1996).

Improving NGO Efficiency

15. It takes more than two months to prepare renewal papers for an NGO registration, which, in event are not thoroughly scrutinized. Because the state has the authority to cancel the registration of any NGO or stop its activities and inform the donor, in any case of serious allegations, once a NGO is registered, renewal procedures should be simplified. Some of the Foreign Donation (FD) forms and procedures followed by the NAB are complex and cumbersome. The application forms and procedures should be simplified through discussion between the GOB and NGOs. With regard to registration, the Home Ministry should grant approval or disapproval within sixty days of receiving the application from the NAB. An application for the appointment of expatriates or extension of tenure should be decided within twenty-five days. The NAB should send reminders to the National Security Intelligence (NSI).

16. Appropriate action should be taken by the administrative Ministries, Divisions and Departments to give their advice to the NAB within twenty-one days with regard to approval of NGO projects. To enable NGOs to prepare budgets and implement projects within the time limit of financial, if the report about a particular NGO is satisfactory, then the NGO could be given clearance for other projects in the same year without further investigation by the NAB.

17. The existing procedure that requires projects and clearance of funds be annually approved by the state should be changed. NGOs that have approval for a project should be able to use foreign funds until the project is completed, without annual renewal. Since the funds must be received through specific NGO bank accounts, the state will be able to monitor the flow of foreign funds to the NGO sector and to each NGO. It will be the business of NAB officials to check whether an NGO has several bank accounts. The National Security Intelligence (NSI) should be aware of each NGO's activities so that it is ready to comment on an application without further inquiry. If the NGO has done anything highly objectionable during the last 30 years, it should be closed and the relevant donor informed. For NAB approval of projects, NGOs should be required to submit the names of its Board Members and/or Executive Committee and the number of staff positions in each category. Staff names, however, should not be required.

Holding NGOs Accountable

18. The state audit system is ineffective. A mechanism must be developed under which the state officials involved in the development process make regular field visits to NGO programmes. Such officials should also conduct impact evaluations upon the completion of a project to enhance the state's understanding of the programme dynamics and the operation of NGOs.

19. Commercial activities of NGOs should be duly taxed and profits from them should be used for development work. The law should be changed accordingly and NAB should make sure that it is implemented properly. In conformity with law, immediate legal action ought to be taken against the officials of several NGOs who are involved in misappropriation, embezzlement or accused of misconduct, irregularity or lawbreaking.

20. Theoretically, the state is accountable to Parliament and ultimately to the public for its activities and programmes, but NGOs remain unaccountable. This is unacceptable. NGOs must be regulated by Parliament. If the government can remain above narrow party interests and if the opposition party can remain strong and responsible, then an effective parliamentary committee could be created to scrutinize and evaluate the activities and programmes of the NGOs.

Conclusion

21. In Bangladesh, NGOs play a pivotal and pragmatic role when the state does not reach the poor and meet their needs. Despite their numbers, NGOs have brought little change in levels of poverty. Even the largest NGOs in Bangladesh when taken together cover only a fraction of the population- perhaps only 10-20 percent of landless households (Hasherm, 1995). This highlights the NGO need for reaching more poor and provision of services given the limitations of the state and the laws. So, alleviation of poverty of the masses should be at the top of the agenda of the NGOs, state and donors in Bangladesh.

TASK - 10

PEACE ACCORD : A NEW ERA IN CHT

Introduction

1. The 23 year old armed Insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) came to an end by a peace accord signed on 02 December 1997 followed by surrender of arms by Shanti-Bahani Guerrillas. The peace accord was signed between the Parbatya Chhittagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PC-JSS) and the National Committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracks (NCCHT). The accord is an instrument of resolving a long standing dispute which had been prevailing in the three districts of CHT. The CHT constitutes one tenth of total area of Bangladesh . In order to understand the significance and prospects of the accord, we need to trace back its historical back ground. Although CHT crisis puts its root at the depth of along past history, but it turned into a region bound political crisis for newly born Bangladesh immediately after her independence in 1971. As such, the topic provides the scope to discuss in brief the historical background of the crisis, Efforts and initiative of the government to bring solution to the crisis, the peace accord and its prospects and problems. The aim of this topic is to present-facts, opinions and arguments for analysing the CHT peace accord.

Historical Background

2. **Origin of Shanti Bahini.** In the year 1973, the leading CHT leader Manabendra Larma MP, on behalf of the majority of the CHT tribal population (Known as Chakma) put forward several demands to the then government of Bangladesh for establishing separate ethnic-cultural identity for the tribal people of CHT. The then government could not appreciate and accommodate Larma's view for the sake of the sovereignty of the country. As a result, the Chakmas decided to form the so called Shanti Bahini, military wing of PCJSS and fought to realize their rights. Accordingly, they formed the Shanti Bahini.

3. **Deployment of Government Security Forces.** In order to encounter the Shanti Bahini Guerrillas, Bangladesh government deployed military and paramilitary forces in the CHT areas. Under the circumstances, about 50,000 tribal people deported themselves from CHT to bordering Indian state of Tripura as refugees. Side by side, over three years, a considerable number of Bengalee people from over populated plain land have resettled in the CHT area.

4. **Initiative of the Present Government.** Soon after "the election of 12 June 1996, the new government of national consensus formed the NCCHT. The chief whip of the ruling parliamentary party, Abul Hasnat Abdullah was made the convener of the NCCHT to negotiate with the political along of PCJSS. It may be mentioned here that the initiatives taken by the forms government which had been followed by about 20 rounds of talks held with the PCJSS could not bring any positive result other than observing period-bound cease-fire both the government and Shanti Bahini sides.

RESTRICTED

5. The present government also held several rounds peace talks which included the return of the CHT refugee from the Indian State of Tripura. The peace talks were proceeding with perplexing situation. However, both the parties to the peace talks were agreed on the following four points:

- a. Constitutional recognition of ethnic minorities.
- b. Land rights of the Hill people.
- c. Constitutional amendment regarding District Councils.
- d. Withdrawal of military to the eight barracks/garrisons in the CHT.

Success

6. The CHT had been the source of unrest for over 23 years, and claimed more than 5000 lives including those of government troops and Shanti Bahini guerrillas. However, the present government took a very keen interest and effective initiative in resolving the CHT problem. The government of Bangladesh and the government of Indian also agreed to curb the cross-border insurgency by not patronizing the United Liberation Front (which is fighting for the north-eastern region of India) and Shanti Bahini the military wing of PCJSS. Finally, the present government of Bangladesh succeeded to sign the CHT peace accord on 02 December 1997.

PEACE ACCORD

Preamble

7. Keeping full allegiance to the Bangladesh's state-sovereignty and the territorial integrity in Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts region under the jurisdiction of the constitution of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, the NCCHT on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and PCJSS on behalf of the inhabitants of the CHT reached an agreement in four parts to uphold the political, social, cultural, educational and economic rights of all people of CHT region, expedite socio-economic development process and to preserve the rights of all citizens of Bangladesh and their development.

Salient Features of the Agreement

8. **General** Both the sides recognized the need for protecting the characteristics and attaining overall development of the region considering CHT as a tribal inhabited region. Both the parties have decided to formulate, change, amend and incorporate acts, regulations and practices as soon as possible complying with the provisions of the agreement. An implementation committee will be formed to monitor the implementation process of the agreement. The agreement will come into effect from the date of its signing and execution by both the sides.

9. **Chittagong Hill Tracts Local Government Council.** Both the sides have reached an agreement with regard to changing, amending, incorporating and writing off the existing Parbatya Zila Sthanio Sarker Parishad Ain 1989 and its different clauses. The name 'Parbatya Zila Sthanio Sarker Parishad', will be amended and the name of the Parishad will be 'Parbatya Zila Parishad'.

10 **Hill Tracts Regional Parishad.** A regional Parishad will be formed combining the three hill districts local government parishad. The Chairman will be directly elected by the elected members of the parishad. He will enjoy the status of a state minister and he must be a tribal. The parishad will consist of 22 members including its chairman. The tenure of the parishad will be five years. A principal executive officer equivalent to the Joint Secretary of the government will be appointed in the council. Tribal candidate will be given preference in the appointment of the post.

11 **Rehabilitation, General Amnesty and other Issues.** Regarding rehabilitation, general amnesty and other issues both the sides have reached the following position and agreed to take programme for restoring normal situation in CHT area.

a. **Tribal Refugees.** An agreement was signed between the Government and the tribal refugee leaders on 09 March 1997 at Agartala of Tripura state on bringing back the tribal refugees staying in the state of Tripura. Under their agreement repatriation of tribal refugees began on 28 March 1997. This process will continue and the leader of the PCJSS will intend all possible co-operation in this regard.

b. **Land Record and Right of Possession.** The land record and right of possession of the tribal people will be ascertained after finalization of the ownership of land of the tribal-people. The government will ensure leasing two acres of land in the respective locality subject to availability.

c. **Land Commission.** A commission will be constituted under a retired judge for the disposal of all disputes relating to lands. The commission will also have full power to annul all rights of ownership on land and hill which have so far been illegal settlements.

d. **Allocation of Government Fund.** The Government will allocate additional finance on priority basis for taking up maximum number of projects to develop CHT area. The government will encourage development of tourism for local and foreign tourists.

e. **Scholarship and Reservation of Quota.** The Government will continue the quota system for the tribal in case of government jobs and higher education till they reach at par with the people of other region of the country. With this aim in view the government will provide more scholarship for the tribal in educational institutes.

RESTRICTED

- f. **Tribal Culture.** The government and the elected representatives will be active to preserve the tribal culture and heritage. The Government will provide due patronization and assistance in this regard.
- g. **Accounts of Arms and Weapons.** The PCJSS will submit to the government within 45 days of signing of the agreement the full list of its armed members and description and account of all arms and weapons under its control and possession.
- h. **Deposition of Arms.** The government and the PCJSS will jointly decide the day date and place of depositing arms by the PCJSS within 45 days of signing of the agreement. The government will ensure all security for the listed members of the PCJSS and their families for coming back to normal life after declaring the day, date and place of depositing arms by the listed members of the PCJSS.
- j. **Legal Action.** The government will take legal action against those who will not deposit arms and ammunition within the stipulated time.
- k. **General Amnesty.** General amnesty will be given to all PCJSS members after they return to normal life and this amnesty will also be given to all the permanent residents who were connected with the PCJSS activities. In addition, each family of the repatriated members of the PCJSS will be given Taka. 50,000 in cash at a time for their rehabilitation.

ANALYSIS

- 12. According to the provision of the peace accord, as already mentioned above, the date and places were decided for surrender of arms by the insurgents in four phases. A total of 1947 Shanti Bahini guerrillas surrendered their arms in four phases since February 10 to 5 March 1998. With the peaceful ending of the arms surrender-we can hope that the peace would restore in CHT.
- 13. barring some radical groups, the people of all ethnic groups of races in CHT seemed to have been cheered the return of the Shanti Bahini guerrillas to their normal life. After long two and a half decades of much bloody blitzkriegs, these guerrillas came in public to give up their warpath. With their land marked return, a sizeable number of people in CHT finally longed for a lasting peace.
- 14. With the signing of their peace treaty followed by surrender of arms the cult of violence and gun culture that rounded the roost in CHT so long has come to a half and the Shanti Bahini guerrillas ceased to exist, which is a great achievement making way to new are in CHT.

15. A tense situation is persisting on the ground in CHT. On 10 February 1998 during the arms surrender ceremony at Khagrachori Stadium a small but visible group of young boys and girls surprised the tight security at the stadium by bringing out their posters which read. We want full autonomy for CHT. They chanted slogans which said that they did not accept the accord of compromise.

16. The fire arms that the guerrillas deposited also include some out dated weapons. This might give rise to question weather the armed cdre members held back majority of their sophisticated weapons. The opposition has already cast its contention that the guerrilla have not turned in their real weapons from the hidden arsenal. Again 739 surrendered men looked young some even appeared boyish. There is also a scope of doubt regarding the whereabouts of the senior members of the Shanti Bahini.

17. The peace accord is also not without any weak point. For example, the government is finding it difficult to implement some vital clauses of the CHT peace agreement. The clauses relate to the voting rights of the hill Bengalis, land administration and the formation of the Regional Council. According to an informed source, the government has sent the full text of the agreement to an unofficial panel of legal experts or security. The legal experts told the government that at least three constitutional provisions would have to be amended for implementation of the agreement.

Prospects of the Agreement.

18. Apart from a few drawbacks of the peace accord, it has a lot of positive aspects. First of all, the peace accord has drawn the attention of international community. Many nations of the world have greeted the accord as a success. So, it is not internationally recognized that insurgents no more exists in Bangladesh.

19. The CHT area has a hugey potentials and proper utilization of these potential can greatly contribute towards the national economy. These are plenty of natural resource in CHT. The peace accord has opened up the prospects of exportation of these natural resources. Foreign investors will also now come forward to invest in this areas CHT area can be best utilized for tourism industry of the country which can attract the tourists of both home and abroad. As such, we can earn a great deal of foreign exchange through this sector.

20. Maintenance of security forces in CHT was very expensive. Not only that the insurgency was causing loss of lot of lives. Now these evils have come to an end and all out joint efforts will be put to build the nation with Newzealand inspiration.

CONCLUSION

21. From the preceding analysis, it can be concluded with confidence that in the foreseeable future the possibility of any more insurgency threat in CHT is almost. There is nothing to be worried about the small section of those who still want autonomy. Even if there is any more stock of arms with the tribal-then it would now be very simple to deal with as per the provision of the peace accord. As already mentioned, the provision of the accord provides that those who will fail to deposit arms within the prescribed period will be dealt with accordingly, So, the tackling of this small tense situation in CHT is no more a big deal. Because this majority and the main elements of the tribal people are party to the accord.

22. The necessity of the amendment of any constitutional provision for implementation of the accord should also not be a difficult task. What all we need in this regard is that placing the national interest above any class interest. For that matter the political parties in position and opposition should work in the same line where the question of national integrity, progress and prosperity is concerned. If we need such amendment of constitutional provision as to give effect to the peace accord-then all the political parties may come to the common platform to solve the problem. Considering all the factors discussed above it is justified to say that peace accord is a new era in CHT. However, its total success would require, on the part of all concerned, to employ in exhaustible efforts, display enormous patience, a very high degree of creativity and invocation, and above all, sincerity and good will.