



**Daffodil International University**  
**Department of Software Engineering**  
**Faculty of Science & Information Technology**  
**Midterm Examination, Fall-2024**  
**Course Code: BNS-101, Course Title: Bangladesh Studies**  
**Batch: 43\_ALL**

**Time: 1 Hour 30 minutes**

**Marks: 25**

**Answer ALL Questions**

*[The figures in the right margin indicate the full marks and corresponding course outcomes. All portions of each question must be answered sequentially.]*

1.	Interpret the demographic dividend's potential perspectives and challenges for the Bangladesh context of translating living standards and reducing unemployment.	05	CLO-1 Level-2
2.	Demonstrate the reasons behind the arrival of foreigners in Bengal and their contribution to the development trend of Bangladeshi identity.	05	CLO-1 Level-3
3.	<b>Answer the following question briefly:</b>  a. Illustrate two primary goals of Bangladesh's foreign policy.  b. Correlate the two determinates of Bangladesh Foreign Policy.  c. Identify the expended forms of NATO and UNCLOS.  d. Explain: What is multilateralism?  e. Detect the three challenges of Bangladesh's foreign policy.	5×2 =10	CLO-2 Level-4
4.	Clarify the essentials of a good constitution to ensure the democratic right and level of accountability in Bangladesh's aspirations of <i>The July Revolution-2024</i> .	05	CLO-1 Level 2

## **1. Demographic Dividend: Opportunities and Challenges for Bangladesh**

The demographic dividend refers to economic growth potential that arises when the working-age population becomes significantly larger than the non-working-age population.

### **Opportunities**

i) More young people mean greater workforce potential

ii) Boost in economic productivity

iii) Potential to improve national living standards

### **Challenges**

i) Unemployment among youth

ii) Mismatch between education and industry needs

iii) Lack of sufficient job creation in key sectors

If these challenges are not addressed, the dividend may become a burden instead of a blessing.

## **2. Foreigners in Bengal: Reasons and Their Impact on Bangladeshi Identity**

### **Reasons for Arrival**

i) Trade: Arabs and Persians came to exchange goods

**ii) Religion:** Spread of Islam through missionaries and scholars

**iii) Power:** Turks, Mughals, and British came for control and colonization

### **Contributions to Identity**

**i) Cultural fusion:** language, clothing, and customs

**ii) Introduction of Islamic beliefs and architecture**

**iii) British reforms brought education systems and modern administration**

**iv) Infrastructure like railways and communication systems**

These influences built a layered, multicultural Bangladeshi identity.

### **3. Brief Questions and Answers**

#### **a. Two Goals of Bangladesh's Foreign Policy:**

**i) Friendship to all, malice toward none**

**ii) National development and international peace**

#### **b. Two Determinants of Foreign Policy:**

**i)Geographical location**

**ii)Economic and development needs**

**c. Expanded Forms:**

**i)NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

**ii)UNCLOS: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

**d. What is Multilateralism?**

It is a system of cooperation where multiple countries work together to solve global issues, ensuring shared responsibility and mutual benefits.

**e. Three Major Challenges of Bangladesh's Foreign Policy:**

i)Balancing relations with regional powers like India and China

ii)Dealing with the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis

iii)Navigating global climate change negotiations and securing funding

**4. Good Constitution for Democracy and Accountability (In Context of July Revolution 2024)**

A constitution should reflect the people's aspirations for justice and participation. To support democratic progress post-July Revolution 2024, the following essentials are needed:

### **Essentials of a Good Constitution**

- i) Guarantee of fundamental rights: speech, vote, religion
- ii) Separation of powers: judiciary, executive, and legislature must remain independent
- iii) Mechanisms for accountability: government actions must be transparent
- iv) Inclusion of public participation: through elections, consultations, and civic engagement
- v) Checks and balances: no authority should have unchecked power

These elements help ensure transparency, fairness, and long-term democratic stability.



Daffodil International University  
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Mid Term Examination, Spring-2025

**Course Title: Bangladesh Studies, Course Code: BNS 101**  
**Batch: 44, Teachers: DEH, MSI, TS**

**Exam Duration: 1.30 Hours**

**Marks: 25**

**Answer ALL Questions**

*[The figures in the right margin indicate the full marks and corresponding course outcomes. All portions of each question must be answered sequentially.]*

<b>1</b>	<b>Answer the following questions briefly:</b> a. Examine opportunities and threats of Bangladesh's geographical location. b. Illustrate Bangladesh's key cultural festivals. c. Examine globalization's impact on Bangladeshi culture. d. Demonstrate key challenges for Bangladesh's demographic dividend. e. Classify organs or branches of the 'Government'	<b>(5x2) =10</b>	<b>CLO-1 L-3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Analyze</b> the challenges Bangladesh faces in maintaining relationship with India, in line with the fundamental principle of its foreign policy— "friendship to all, malice towards none."	5	<b>CLO-2 L-4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Explain</b> how the concept of 'mixed blood' shaped the Bengali national identity.	5	<b>CLO-1 L-2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Evaluate</b> the July 2024 Mass Uprising considering the fundamental rights— 'freedom of speech' and 'freedom of assembly'— in the Bangladesh constitution.	5	<b>CLO-2 L-5</b>

### **1(a) Opportunities and threats of Bangladesh's geographical location.**

Bangladesh is located in South Asia, bordered by India on three sides, Myanmar on the southeast, and the Bay of Bengal to the south. Its position in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta makes the land extremely fertile, supporting agriculture and fisheries. The Bay of Bengal provides access to international sea routes, creating opportunities for trade, shipping, and tourism. Being between two major Asian markets—India and China—also offers potential for regional connectivity and investment.

### **1(b) Key cultural festivals of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has a rich cultural heritage reflected in its festivals. *Pohela Boishakh* (Bengali New Year) is celebrated on 14 April with fairs, colourful processions, music, and traditional foods like panta-ilish. *Eid-ul-Fitr* marks the end of Ramadan and is celebrated with prayers, new clothes, and sharing of food with relatives and the poor. *Eid-ul-Adha* is another major Muslim festival where animals are sacrificed and the meat is shared. For Hindus, *Durga Puja* is the biggest celebration, involving artistic pandals, cultural performances, and worship over several days. Buddhists celebrate *Buddha Purnima*, marking the birth of Lord Buddha. These festivals bring people together, regardless of religion, and strengthen the cultural identity of Bangladesh.

### **1(c) Globalization's impact on Bangladeshi culture**

Globalization has connected Bangladesh to the rest of the world through trade, technology, media, and travel. Positive impacts include the spread of modern education, increased use of technology like the internet and smartphones, and global markets for Bangladeshi products such as garments, jute, and seafood. However, globalization has also created challenges. Some traditional values, languages, and crafts are declining as younger generations adopt global lifestyles. Western media influence sometimes clashes with local customs.

### **1(d) Key challenges for Bangladesh's demographic dividend**

The demographic dividend refers to the economic advantage a country gains when the working-age population is larger than dependents. Bangladesh is currently in this phase, with a large number of young people. This can boost economic growth if the youth are well-educated, healthy, and employed.

However, challenges include high youth unemployment, underemployment, and lack of proper skills training for modern industries. Many young people seek jobs abroad, leading to a “brain drain.” Without

strong policies for job creation, entrepreneurship, and vocational training, this advantage could be wasted, turning the youth into a burden rather than an asset.

### **1(e) Organs or branches of the Government**

The Government of Bangladesh operates through three main branches:

\* **Legislative**— Responsible for making laws. This is done by the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament), whose members are elected by the people.

\* **Executive** – Enforces and implements laws. It is led by the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers, and government officials. The President is the constitutional head of state.

\* **Judiciary**— Interprets laws, ensures justice, and protects citizens' rights. The courts operate independently from the other branches to maintain fairness.

These branches work together to run the country while maintaining a balance of power.

### **2. Challenges Bangladesh Faces in Maintaining Relationship with India**

Bangladesh follows the principle “friendship to all, malice towards none”, but maintaining a smooth relationship with India comes with several challenges. One major issue is the water-sharing dispute, particularly over the Teesta River, which has been unresolved for years and affects Bangladesh's agriculture and economy. Another significant challenge is border killings, where incidents involving security forces create tension and public dissatisfaction. Smuggling and illegal trade across the long border also remain a problem. Additionally, trade imbalance is a concern since Bangladesh imports much more from India than it exports, creating economic pressure. Issues related to illegal migration and political misunderstandings between the two countries sometimes lead to mistrust. Despite these difficulties, Bangladesh keeps working on diplomatic talks, trade agreements, security cooperation, and cultural exchanges to maintain peace and harmony, following its core foreign policy principle of friendly relations without hostility.

### **3. How the Concept of 'Mixed Blood' Shaped Bengali National Identity**

The concept of mixed blood means that Bengalis have an identity formed through the combination of different races and cultures over thousands of years. Influences from Aryans, Dravidians, Mongols, Turks, Afghans, and Mughals shaped Bengal's people, traditions, and social structure. This blending created a unique cultural heritage, reflected in language, literature, music, clothing, food habits, and festivals. Bengalis inherited qualities from different civilizations, which made their culture diverse yet unified under the Bengali identity. This diversity gave Bengalis a sense of pride and belonging, which later inspired major movements such as the Language Movement in 1952 and the Liberation War in 1971, proving that despite differences, their identity as Bengalis is strong. Thus, the idea of mixed blood played a vital role in shaping a rich, inclusive, and proud Bengali national identity.

#### **4. Evaluation of the July 2024 Mass Uprising**

The July 2024 Mass Uprising in Bangladesh demonstrated the practical use of two fundamental rights stated in the Constitution: freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Citizens came together in large numbers to protest government policies they believed were unjust. They expressed their opinions freely and gathered in public places, showing that these rights are an essential part of democracy. The uprising gave people an opportunity to raise their voices and demand justice. However, during the protests, there were incidents of violence, clashes with law enforcement, and disruptions in public order, which created concerns about safety and law enforcement. Despite these challenges, the event proved that freedom of speech and assembly are powerful tools for ensuring accountability in a democratic society. At the same time, it highlighted the need for both citizens and the government to maintain peaceful demonstrations and responsible measures so these rights can be exercised safely and effectively.



Daffodil International University  
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Department of Software Engineering  
Mid Term Examination, Summer-2025

Course Title: Bangladesh Studies, Course Code: BNS 101  
Batch: 45, Teachers: DEH, DMR, MAA & SHS

Exam Duration: 1.30 Hours

Marks: 25

Answer ALL Questions

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1	Apply the SWOT framework to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with Bangladesh's geopolitical strategic position.	5	CLO-1 L-3
2	Explore the evolution of the origin and identity of Bangladeshi people as a mixed blood nation.	5	CLO-1 L-3
3	Analyze the guiding principles of Bangladesh's foreign policy and complex challenges the country is facing on the global stage.	10	CLO-2 L-4
4	What amendments to the constitution of Bangladesh would you like to recommend in light of the July 2024 Mass Uprising? Sketch.	5	CLO-1 L-3

## Solution of mid (summer 25)

Ques no. 1

Bangladesh holds a highly significant geopolitical position in South Asia. Its location between India, China, Southeast Asia, and its access to the Bay of Bengal, give it both opportunities and challenges. The SWOT framework helps to analyze Bangladesh's strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats in this strategic context.

**Strengths:** One of Bangladesh's main strengths is its strategic location between South and Southeast Asia. This position helps the country become a bridge for trade and communication between different regions. It also has access to the Bay of Bengal, which gives it strong sea connections and helps in international trade. Another big strength is its balanced relations

with major powers like China, India and the United States. Bangladesh maintains friendly ties with all, without taking sides. This balanced diplomacy brings peace and cooperation. In addition, Bangladesh is a top contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, which has earned it respect and goodwill in the international community.

**Weakness:** However, Bangladesh also faces some weaknesses. Its military power is limited so it cannot play a big role in regional security. The country still depends a lot on foreign powers for trade, defense and investment. Bangladesh also has a weak position in regional organizations like SAARC, where big countries have more

influence. Moreover, its infrastructure is not yet fully developed, which slows down progress in transport and industry.

**Opportunities:** There are many opportunities for Bangladesh to grow stronger. It can benefit from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which brings roads, ports and energy projects. The Blue Economy in the Bay of Bengal is another major chance - it can help Bangladesh earn more through fishing, energy and sea trade. The country also has chances to improve regional connections through projects like BIMSTEC and BBIN, which support better transport and cooperation. Lastly, Bangladesh has the

potential to act as a middle power, helping to build peace and understanding between larger countries.

**Threats:** Bangladesh also faces serious threats. It can get caught in the rivalry between India and China or the US and China, which may affect its foreign policy. Climate change and rising sea levels are big dangers that threaten the coastal areas and millions of people. Another threat is extremism, which can harm peace and stability inside the country.

In short, Bangladesh's position gives it both advantages and risks. Its location, diplomacy and peacekeeping efforts are great strengths. If Bangladesh can use its opportunities and manage its threats wisely, it can turn its location into a source of strength.

2. Why are we called mixed blooded nation?

Ans: The identity of Bangladeshi people is not based on one single race or culture. It is a result of thousands of years of mixing and interaction between many groups of people. Bangladesh is a land where different races, cultures and religions met, mixed and created something new. That is why the identity of Bangladeshi people can be called "mixed blood"—a combination of many biological and cultural elements that came together over a long time. This mixed identity makes Bangladesh a country of diversity, unity and adaption. The people are different in background, but they share one common feeling of being Bangladeshi.

### Biological Diversity

Bangladeshi people come from many ancient

populations. From the earliest times, the land was home to Austroasiatic and Dravidian ~~settle~~ settlers who came from South and Southeast Asia. Later Indo-Aryan migrants came and mixed with local people. Over time, Turkic, Persian, Afghani and Arab groups also arrived. Because of this long history of migration and mixing, the people of Bangladesh today have no single racial type. Instead, they show features of many ancestries. Genetic studies show that Bangladeshis are descendants of a heterogeneous or mixed population. This biological diversity also made the people stronger and adaptable. So, biologically, Bangladeshis are the product of a continuous blending process.

### Cultural Hybridity

Just as the blood of the people is mixed, their culture is also a beautiful mixture. The

culture of Bangladesh has never been static. It kept changing and growing as new influences arrived. The earliest culture was built by indigenous communities who lived close to nature. Then the Aryan migration brought Indo-European languages and Vedic traditions. Later, during the Pala and Sena periods, both Buddhism and Hinduism flourished together. In the thirteenth century, Islam entered Bengal through Sufi saints and Muslim rulers. But instead of replacing the old traditions, Islam blended with them. The culture of Bangladesh became hybrid or mixed, taking something from new era.

### Colonial and Nationalist Transformations

The period of British colonial rule brought new types of change. The British introduced modern education, railways, newspapers, political

systems. Though it brought exploitation, it also opened the door to modern thinking and awareness. Culturally, this period added another layer to the mixed identity. The works of thinkers like Rabindranath Tagore, Begum Rokeya and Kazi Nazrul Islam reflected both global and local influences. In the 20th century, the struggle for independence shaped the identity even more. These historical struggles helped shape the consciousness of the people. They showed that Bangladeshi identity is not just biological or cultural, it is also political and emotional, born out of the fight for justice, equality and self-respect.

### Contemporary Intersection

Today, the Bangladeshi identity can be understood as a combination of three main elements:

① Language: Bangla is the heart of Bangladeshi

identity. It unites people from all regions, religions and backgrounds. The Language Movement proved how strong the emotional connection to Bangla is. It is not only a way to communication but also a symbol of freedom and pride.

② Religion: Islam is the majority religion in Bangladesh, but the country also has Hindus, Buddhists and Christian communities. The presence of different religions has made the national culture more colorful and rich.

③ Cultural Hybridity: Every aspect of daily life from food, clothing and music to art and literature shows the mixing of different traditions. Bengali songs may carry Persian words, folk stories may carry lessons from all faiths. Therefore, Bangladeshi identity is not one-dimensional. It is like woven fabric.

Where every thread - language, religion and culture adds strength and beauty to the whole.

The story of Bangladesh is a story of mixing, adaption, unity in diversity. The people of Bangladesh are a living example of how biological and cultural elements come together to form a strong national identity. The term "mixed blood nation" perfectly captures this history. Bangladesh is not just a country created in 1971 - it is the result of thousands of years migration, cultural exchange and shared struggle. The mixed blood identity of the Bangladeshi people is a symbol of harmony and history, reminding us that our differences make us stronger and our unity makes us a nation.

Ques no 3

Bangladesh's foreign policy is built on peace, equality and cooperation. From its independence in 1971, Bangladesh has aimed to protect its national interest, maintain friendly relations with all countries and support peace around the world. The main idea of its foreign policy comes from the constitution and the famous motto, "Friendship to all, malice toward none".

### Guiding Principles of Bangladesh's Foreign Policy

1. Friendship to all, Malice to none: Bangladesh wants friendly relations with all countries and avoid making enemies or taking sides in global conflict.
2. Respect for Sovereignty and Equality: Every country, big or small, should be treated equally and have the right to control its own land and government without outside interference.

3. Non-interference in Internal Affairs: Bangladesh does not interfere in other countries' domestic matters and expects others to do the same.

4. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes: Bangladesh believes that international problems should be solved through talks, not war or violence.

5. Respect for International Law and UN Charter: The country follows the principles of the United Nations, supports global peace and works with organizations like the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

6. Rejection of the use of Force: Bangladesh supports disarmament and rejects the use of ~~milit~~ military power to solve global problems.

7. Supports for Oppressed Nations: Bangladesh stands with people struggling against imperialism, colonialism and racism and believes that

every nation has the right to choose its own social, political and economic system.

8. Peaceful Co-existence and Mutual Benefit:  
Bangladesh works for cooperation and mutual development, especially in trade, security and environmental protection.

Complex Challenges on the global Stage  
Despite its peaceful policy, Bangladesh faces several major challenges in today's world:

1. Rohingya Crisis: Millions of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar have created social, economic and diplomatic pressure on Bangladesh.

2 Religious Intolerance and Extremism: Growing extremism harms Bangladesh's image as a peaceful nation.

3. Relations with India: Issues like water sharing, border violence and trade imbalance often cause tension.
4. Unequal Resources: Bangladesh does not always get a fair share of regional resources and investments.
5. Trade and Money Issues: The country imports more than it exports and money laundering weakens the economy.
6. Lack of Diplomats and Missions: Bangladesh has too few embassies and trained diplomats to represent its interest abroad.
7. Climate Change: Rising sea levels and frequent floods threaten its people and economy.

To face these challenges, Bangladesh must strengthen diplomacy, train skilled diplomats and build smart partnership. By following its peaceful principles, Bangladesh can protect its interests and gain more respect in the world.

#### Ques 4

The July 2024 Mass Uprising was one of the most remarkable movements in the recent history of Bangladesh. It was mainly led by students and young people who raised their voices for justice. The Movement reflected people's desire for true democracy and accountability.

1. Free and Fair Elections : The first priority should be to ensure free and fair elections. The Election Commission must be fully independent and neutral. Members of the Commission should be appointed in a transparent and non political way.
2. Justice and Accountability : The judiciary must be independent from government control. Judges should be appointed and transferred through a separate judicial commission to prevent political influence. The Anti Corruption Commission (Acc)

should be given constitutional power so that it can work freely against corruption in all sectors. Accountability of the police and government officers should also be ensured through clear laws and strong monitoring systems.

3. Strengthening Citizens' Right : The freedom of speech, press and peaceful assembly must be protected more strongly. The Constitution should clearly mention the right to express opinions online and on social media without fear.

4. Youth Empowerment and Local Power: Since the 2024 movement was youth-led, young people should have a greater role in politics and administration. A new constitutional clause could include youth representation in parliament or local government. Local government bodies should also be

strengthened and given more power. When decisions are made at the local level, problems can be solved faster and more effectively.

5. Human Rights and Social Justice: The Constitution should include strict rule against state violence and protect the right to life and dignity. Any misuse of power by law enforcement must be punished. Basic needs such as education, health, housing and employment should be treated as legal rights, not just national goals. Ensuring these rights will help reduce inequality and social unrest.

The July 2021 Mass Uprising showed that the people of Bangladesh want honesty, justice and democracy. Bangladesh can move closer to a truly democratic and people-centered state. These amendments would honor the sacrifices of the movement and build a fair and hopeful future for all citizens.