

■ Dr Mohammad Zahidul Islam Khan (ZIK), Group Captain, Bangladesh Air Force

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PROFILE

A self-motivated early career researcher and team player focused on creating new knowledge and contributing to positive peace. Proven conceptual, analytical and methodological skills and publication record on state fragility, peacekeeping, stabilisation, UN system, counter-terrorism, Bangladesh, China, Mali & Myanmar. Experienced in leading or working with teams in the most challenging environments at home and abroad. Comprehensive practical knowledge on policy and practices to operate in the field and maintain business continuity under COVID-19.

PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Jan 2020 – Feb 2021: Senior National Representative (SNR), Bangladesh & Contingent Commander (CC), BANASMU-6, Northern Mali, UN Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Key tasks (as CC) included leading a team to provide a range of operational, technical, terminal and ramp services for safe air operations from Kidal and Tessalit in Northern Mali. Maintained business continuity under COVID-19 and handled 3,299 flights involving, 21,930 passengers and 705 tons of cargo, without any incident/accident. Key SNR tasks entailed assessing and reporting on political, security and operational issues, conducting fact-finding inquiry, coordinating troops rotation, and dealing with discipline matters (if any) of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Mali. Achievement included receiving the Force Commander's commendation for outstanding leadership and task accomplishments.

Oct 2014 – Feb 2019: PhD Researcher, Lecturer & Academic Visitor, Politics & International Relations Department, University of Reading, UK. Acquired in-depth conceptual, analytical and methodological knowledge on Politics & International Relations (POLIR) discipline with a focus on security and strategic studies, state fragility, global structure, UN system, peacekeeping, stabilisation and counter-terrorism. Key outputs/engagements included completing PhD (awarded 28 February 2019), lectures on POLIR, quantitative coding as research assistant, evaluating exam scripts, reviewing the module content of UK Army Higher Education Pathway (AHEP), publishing and presenting research articles in reputed international journals and seminars.

Jul 2008 – Aug 2012: Secretary to the Chief of Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force. Knowledge on rules, procedures and protocols to review/respond to issues by the Chief. Key outputs included managing the Secretariat, drafting policy guidelines, preparing minutes of a meeting, analytical brief, reports, speeches & messages.

Feb 2005 – Sep 2007: Lecturer, Defence Services Command & Staff College and Dissertation Supervisor, Master of Defence Studies students of National University, Bangladesh. Acquired knowledge & ability to clearly summarizing and articulating issues, options and concisely conveying information. Key output included design and conduct courses, translating syllabus into training activities such as wargames, CPEX, assignments, lectures.

Oct 2003- Oct 2004: Peacekeeper (MILOB), UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). Key tasks were leading a multinational team deployed at the Sierra Leone-Liberia border to monitor and report the activities of local government, security issues and development needs, and holding periodic meetings with LURD rebels. Key outputs included periodic reports and assessments, patrolling, village profiling, need assessments etc.

Mar 2019- Dec 2019; Oct 2013-Oct 2014; Jun-2007- Jun-2008; Mar 2000 – May 2001; Jan 1998 -Apr 1998; Apr 1998- Apr 1999; Jul 1993- Jun 1998: Command & Instructional assignments at Bangladesh Air Force Units. Key tasks involved translating organisational goals into actions, teambuilding, leading and managing operational tasks. Ensure periodic motivation to place team's agenda before personal and monitoring compliance of discipline.

EDUCATION

University of Reading, UK, Dept. of Politics and International Relations (Oct 2014- Feb 2019)

Degree: PhD in POLIR. **Thesis:** State Fragility & International Structures – Exploring the Effects of Global War on Terrorism. **Achievements.** Recipient of Graduate School Int'l Students Scholarship. PhD awarded in Feb 2019.

University of Bradford, UK, Dept. of Peace Studies (Sep 2012 – Oct 2013)

Degree: MA in Conflict Security & Development. **Dissertation:** Paradox of State Fragility-Exploring the Role of International Structures in Bangladesh Context. **Achievement:** Passed with distinction. Recipient of UK Foreign Office Chevening Scholarship and David Yates Memorial Prize for the best overall performance. Planned and organised a seminar attended by over 100 participants from the UK and Europe. Worked as a team member of the Global Scholars Symposium at the University of Cambridge.

Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, USA (Jul 2001- Jul 2002)

Degree: Master of Military Operational Science & Arts. **Dissertation:** Measuring Air Power Effectiveness - Key Non-Quantifiable Elements of Strategic Attack. **Achievement:** Passed with CGPA: 3.628/4. Nominated for Robbi Risner International Officer's Leadership Award. Program Manager of International Cultural Day attended by over 2000 guests from the City of Montgomery, Alabama.

University of Dhaka, Faculty of Business Studies, Dept of Banking, Bangladesh (2007-2009)

Degree: Master of Business Administration (Banking). **Dissertation:** Are prudential supervision and regulation pillars of financial stability? Evidence from the great depression. **Achievement:** Passed with CGPA 3.82/4. Established Dhaka University Alumni Association of Banking (DUAAB).

National University, Bangladesh (1999- 2000)

Degree: Master of Defence Studies. **Dissertation:** Effectiveness of Bangladesh Air Force Air Defence System and Integration. **Achievement:** First Class (65.2%); Received Bir Shreshtho Matiur Rahman Award.

KEY SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Ability to plan organise and develop collaborative actions in national/multinational environment.
 - Ability to prioritise resource allocation and bounce back after a failure to complete a project.
 - A solid grasp on basic & advanced research methods and philosophical issues in the social sciences.
 - Experienced in using Excel, Stata, SPSS, (data analysis), Delv and Open Refine (content analysis) and Tableau (data visualization), Microsoft office system, electronic filing & record keeping.
 - Ability to design & implement COVID-19 protocols in-field & maintain business continuity.
 - Ability to monitor and adjust plans and actions as necessary and efficient utilisation of the time and efforts.
 - Ability to incorporate gender perspectives in all areas of work.
 - Capable to lead a team or to work as a team member in a multicultural environment.
 - Capable of planning, organising, conducting or participating in international seminars & conference.
 - Ability to meet commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results – both individual and collective.
 - In-depth insights into United Nations field peacekeeping missions, policies, practices and challenges.
 - Capable of inter and intra agency cooperation & coordination to achieve results.
 - Ability to coordinate, develop and manage partnerships and networks with key stakeholders.
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

Khan, M.Z. I. (2021). Enduring Policy Ideals and Practices - Evidence from Bangabandhu's Speech at the United Nations and Bangladesh's Voting Records at the Assembly: 2001-2017, *Upcoming, BIISS book chapter*, Dhaka.

Khan, M.Z. I. (2020). Is Voting Patterns at the United Nations General Assembly a Useful Way to Understand a Country's Policy Inclinations: Bangladesh's Voting Records at the United Nations General Assembly, *SAGE Open*, Vol 10, Issue 4, pp. 1–16. DOI: 10.1177/2158244020961117.

Khan, M.Z.I. & Zaum, D. (2020). A Structural Explanation of State Fragility: Theorizing the Causal Pathways, *Journal of Governance, Security & Development*, Vol 1 No. 1, pp.19-71. ISSN: 2708-2490.

Khan, M. Z. Islam. (2019). Atrocity crimes in Myanmar - is there political will? *Global Responsibility to Protect*. Volume 1, Issue 1, pp. 3-41. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1163/1875984X-01101003>

Khan, M.Z. Islam, (2017). *The Fallacy of Fragile States Indices: Is There a 'Fragility Trap'?* *BIISS Monograph*, 25, January 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Khan, M.Z. Islam (2016). Philosophical Dualism: Towards a Nuance Understanding of the Concept of Terrorism, *BIISS Journal*, Volume 37, Number 2, pp.133-154.

Khan, M.Z. Islam (2016). Beyond Greed or Grievance Theory – What Explains Civil War? *Peace and Security Review*, Volume 7, Number 15, pp.26-49.

Khan, M.Z. Islam (2014). Do the weak and failing states pose a challenge to the realist worldview? *BIISS Journal*, Volume 35, Issue 2, pp.166-179.

Khan, M. Z. Islam, (2014). Will the Rise of China Remain Peaceful? *Peace and Security Review*, Volume 6, Number 12, pp-1-24.
