

Conference on

BANGLADESH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Dates: June 13 & 14, 2008
(Friday & Saturday)

Venue: CGIS Building
Harvard University

1730 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA



Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Institute
for Democratic Governance and Innovation



Bangladesh Development
Initiative, USA (BDI)



Democracy and Development
in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)

ANNOUNCING A SCHOLARLY CONFERENCE “BANGLADESH IN THE 21ST CENTURY”:

A scholarly conference, **Bangladesh in the 21st Century**, is being organized jointly by *Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)*, *Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)*, Boston, Massachusetts and *The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*.

Bangladesh is the tenth largest country in the world in terms of population and is seen as a development success in terms of increased literacy, education and reduced fertility. Although it is well known for its development experiments, with the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the Grameen Bank and its founder, Professor Muhammad Yunus, the country faces many challenges such as restoration of democracy, alleviating poverty, provision of education and employment for its growing population, and reducing environmental pressures on its riverine landscape.

The two-day conference on June 13th and 14th, 2008, to be held at the *Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS) Building, Harvard University*, will examine pertinent economic, social and political challenges facing Bangladesh in the 21st century. It will be attended by academics, professionals and dignitaries from the US and Bangladesh. Participants from various locations around the world will present papers on foreign policy, trade, health, environment, education, finance, and related topics that concern the future of Bangladesh in this millennium.

Among the highlights of the conference are the following:

- Inaugural Address: H.E. Mr. Humayun Kabir, Ambassador of Bangladesh to USA.
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jamilur R. Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Dinner Speaker: Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Senior Research Scholar and Adjunct Faculty, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University.
- Luncheon Speaker: Mr. Masihur Rahman, former Secretary, Ministry of Finance, External Relations Division, and author, “*Democracy in Bangladesh: Crisis and Retrieval.*”
- Luncheon Speaker: Mr. Mamun Rashid, Managing Director and Citi Country Officer, Bangladesh.
- Special plenary on foreign policy with Mr. Farooq Sobhan, former Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh; Mr. Donald Camp, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State; and Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Director, Ash Institute, Harvard University.
- Plenary on Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) at 35: Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University; Dr. Richard Cash, Harvard University; and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University.
- Cultural show.

Details of the conference are available at www.bdiusa.org. It is important for intending attendees to register for the conference, details of which are available at the above web site.

About the Organizers:

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) is a USA-based non-profit organization comprised of independent scholars associated with institutions of higher education in the United States and involved in scholarly exchanges between the United States and Bangladesh through establishing educational programs, publishing an academic journal — *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, sustaining a book publication program to archive indigenous knowledge, and organizing conferences that debate policy prerogatives for Bangladesh and its various sectors.

(continued)

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its research, publications, curriculum support, global network, and awards program, the Ash Institute explores critical issues in democratic practice and effective governance. By engaging a broad, global community in which knowledge is shared, by generating and supporting research and curriculum materials, and by highlighting exemplary government programs, the Institute serves as a catalyst for successfully addressing many of the world's most pressing concerns and, in turn, improving the lives of its citizens.

Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF) is a non-profit organization of Bangladeshi scholars and professionals residing in the Greater Boston area of Massachusetts, USA. DDBF was formed primarily with three objectives: establishing a positive image of Bangladesh among the different stakeholders in North America; bringing together experts from the Bangladeshi diaspora and “friends of Bangladesh” to create a database available to the Bangladesh government as well as the private sector seeking advice and expertise; and conducting open debates and discussions on issues of current interest with the objective of bringing together the diaspora to leverage their strength in promoting true democratic movement for the development of Bangladesh. DDBF is currently working as a network of organizations, academics and professionals to promote democracy and development.

Supporting Organizations:

The following supporting organizations are gratefully acknowledged:



American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
www.aibs.net



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