

Conference on
BANGLADESH IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Dates:

13 & 14 June 2008 (Friday & Saturday)

Venue:

Harvard University

Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS) Building
1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

Organized by:



Bangladesh Development
Initiative, USA (BDI)



Democracy and Development
in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)



Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Institute
for Democratic Governance and Innovation

Conference Website:

www.bdiusa.org

Further Contact:

Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb (saadandaleeb@gmail.com), President, BDI
Dr. Kazi F. Jalal (kjalal@deas.harvard.edu), Chair, DDBF

But we have created a society that does not allow opportunities for those people to take care of themselves because we have denied them those opportunities.

—Muhammad Yunus

Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it.

—Rabindranath Tagore

After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.

—Nelson Mandela

The true wealth of a nation lies not in its gold and silver but in its learning, wisdom, and the uprightness of its sons.

—Kahlil Gibran

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ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

A FEW WORDS ABOUT BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (BDI)



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, sustaining a book publication program to archive indigenous knowledge, and organizing conferences that debate policy prerogatives for Bangladesh and its various sectors. BDI also includes professionals who are involved in supporting social development initiatives in Bangladesh.

BDI was founded in 1988, headquartered in Pennsylvania, USA, to promote the production of high-value-added products such as durable and capital goods in Bangladesh. Equipped with an understanding that Bangladesh's economic development problem lies on the demand side of the equation rather than the supply side, instigated by an anomalous tax structure, BDI has always advocated the establishment of an environment of fair competition in Bangladesh so as to allow the domestic producers a fair chance to market their products and in turn improve their products through research and development (R&D). BDI feels that the establishment of the production of durable and capital goods, supported by domestic R&D, is the preferred way to increase the labor productivity of Bangladeshi citizens to a desired level. More can be learned about BDI on its web site: www.bdiusa.org.

Table 1: Current Officers of Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)

President :	Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D
Vice President :	Farida C. Khan, Ph.D.
Secretary :	Munir Quddus, Ph.D.
Treasurer :	Ashraf Ali, D.Sc.
Executive Members :	Ahrar Ahmad, Ph.D. M. Faizul Islam, Ph.D. Halimur Khan, Ph.D. Syeda M. Khan, CPA Ruhul Kuddus, Ph.D. Sukomal Modak, Ph.D. Syedur Rahman, Ph.D. Parhez Sattar, BSBA Elora Shehabuddin, Ph.D.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH FORUM (DDBF)



DDBF (Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum) is a recently-formed non-profit organization of Bangladeshi scholars and professionals residing in the Greater Boston area of Massachusetts, USA. DDBF was conceptualized in 2006 when the national image of Bangladesh in the international community had hit a rock bottom due to political turmoil which brought development activities into a halt. DDBF was formed primarily with three objectives; Firstly, establishing a positive image of Bangladesh to the different stakeholders in North America. Secondly, bringing together experts drawn from the Bangladeshi Diaspora and “Friends of Bangladesh” to create a standing source of database which could be tapped by the Bangladesh government as well as the private sector seeking any possible advise and expertise available; and Thirdly, conducting open debates and discussions on issues of current interest on the subject with the objective of bringing together the Diaspora and to leverage their strength as well as explore their potential towards promoting true democratic movement and development of Bangladesh. DDBF is currently working as a loose network of organizations, academics and professionals with a core group comprised of a few dedicated individuals. The motivation and aspiration is to promote democracy and development.

Table 2: Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF) Executive Committee

Chairperson :	Dr. Kazi F. Jalal
Secretary & Treasurer :	Mr. Mahmood Akhter
Advisors :	<p>Dr. Mawdudur Rahman Professor, Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts President, Knowledge Globalization Institute</p> <p>Prof. Peter Rogers Faculty, SEAS (School of Engineering & Applied Science), Harvard University</p> <p>Dr. Haider Ali Khan Professor of Economics, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado</p>
Members :	<p>Dr. M. G. Quibria Prof. Syed A. Hasnath Prof. Adnan Z. Morshed Prof. Elora H. Chowdhury Mr. Kazi Shahjahan Belal Dr. Gulshan Ara Kazi Ms. Nazda Alam Mr. Abdul Wahid Sinha Mr. Bipul Kamal</p>

**A FEW WORDS ABOUT
THE ASH INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE & INNOVATION,
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
AT
HARVARD UNIVERSITY**



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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

MESSAGE FROM DR. SYED SAAD ANDALEEB, PRESIDENT, BDI



Organizing this conference has been an enlightening experience, with an indelible lesson. Simply stated, if you can dream up an idea that has deep perceived value and the potential to make an impact, and if you are able to work with team members upon whom you have complete confidence and who play their part faithfully, selflessly, and with unwavering dedication, that dream can become reality.

The dream behind this conference, *Bangladesh in the 21st Century*, was to bring together scholars, practitioners, students, and well-wishers as a community to contemplate the opportunities and challenges facing the fledgling nation — Bangladesh. On the one hand, the country has made remarkable progress in economic growth (grouped in the Next-11 by Goldman Sachs), population control, manpower exports, shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals, and educational opportunities, especially for women. On the other hand, Bangladesh has had to weather many a storm: civil unrest, assassinations, corruption, incompetence, strong egos, an identity crisis, external pressures, economic downturns, debilitated institutions, widespread poverty and related challenges since its cataclysmic birth. For challenges of such mammoth proportions the solutions are neither easy nor immediate.

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) is dedicated to addressing these challenges in a variety of ways:

- Support policy research to advance the formulation and implementation of national policies
- Envision industrialization and acceleration of rural development as a means to alleviate poverty
- Foster strong relationships and solidarity with Bangladeshi residents of North America to raise awareness of the developmental issues facing the country
- Initiate educational and cultural exchange to promote international understanding between the people of Bangladesh and the world community
- Publish a journal (*The Journal of Bangladesh Studies*), books, and research products to address the aforementioned issues

The success of the conference is also the culmination of the work of a core group of colleagues from BDI and Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF), in Boston, Massachusetts, working

collaboratively towards a common goal: to help make a difference in the political, social, and economic lives of the people of Bangladesh. The support of the Ash Institute of Democratic Governance and Innovation, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University has also been invaluable. It was fascinating to witness the growth of the core team, as like-minded individuals who were passionate about the cause joined our efforts, executed on particular goals with which they were entrusted, and worked with the broader team to help realize the dream. We even received help from unexpected quarters: The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC, the US Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Citibank, Prime Bank Limited, and MGH Group from Bangladesh. Here we are today, partaking in an event that is the result of commitment and partnership.

Can this model work on the nation-scale? I believe it can! A visionary leader, with the right dreams, supported by a selfless team of dedicated individuals, all tuned into the same marching song, can work wonders. At this conference, a confluence of many hearts and minds interested in the future of Bangladesh, I hope we will be able to kindle the desire in those who are able and willing, to help steer the nation to more vibrant shores. And through our collective efforts and contributions, I hope we can make a difference.

Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

President, BDI

Professor & Program Chair, Marketing
The Pennsylvania State University, Erie



MESSAGE FROM DR. KAZI F. JALAL, CHAIRPERSON, DDBF



Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF) is a non-profit, civic association of Bangladeshi professionals and scholars based in Massachusetts working hand-in-hand with the “Friends of Bangladesh” to promote a positive image of Bangladesh. Since its formation in 2006, DDBF has organized symposia and discussions with various groups with the aim of creating knowledge and database on democracy and socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

When the idea of convening a conference on *Bangladesh in the 21st Century* came from the Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) based in Pennsylvania, DDBF not only agreed to support it, but also to be the co-sponsor of the event. Since then DDBF has worked hand-in-hand with BDI on everything including selecting the venue of the conference to working out the planning and implementation of the idea.

Through the convening of the conference, the two organizations, with the support of the Ash Institute of Democratic Governance and Innovation, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, have been able to establish a unique collaboration among Bangladesh professionals and their friends working in USA in promoting democracy, socio-economic, technological and capital market development. It is our hope that the conference will enable us to come up with concrete recommendations for the future of a healthy democracy and positive development of Bangladesh in the 21st century.

Dr. Kazi F. Jalal

Chairperson, DDBF

Faculty, Harvard University Extension School



MESSAGE FROM DR. GOWHER RIZVI, DIRECTOR, ASH INSTITUTE



In the 37 years since the liberation of Bangladesh the people have kept their commitment and faith in democracy. That faith has been repeatedly betrayed by the leaders — both civil and military. The democratic institutions are once more in abeyance. The conference on *Bangladesh in the 21st Century* could not have been convened at a more opportune moment. It will, I hope, address some of the critical questions facing the country: How do we enable the holding of the elections by bringing together all the parties, institutions and individuals that seek the restoration of democracy? How do we adapt the democratic institutions in which the winner takes all and deprives the other of any stake in governance? And how do we ensure that the elected government fulfils its role as the guarantor of social justice and where the disposed also have access to government services and opportunity? The conference has a unique opportunity to provide ideas and solutions to these questions.

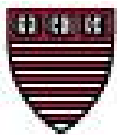
Dr. Gowher Rizvi

Director

Ash Institute of Governance and Innovation

Kennedy School of Government

Harvard University



PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE

Program Committee Members (alphabetic order):

Mahmood Akhter, Secretary & Treasurer, DDBF
Ashraf Ali, Treasurer, BDI
Syed Saad Andaleeb, President, BDI, and Conference Co-Chair
Kazi F. Jalal, Chairperson, DDBF, and Conference Co-Chair
Gulshan Ara Kazi, DDBF
Farida C. Khan, Vice President, BDI
Sukomal Modak, Executive Member, BDI
Munir Quddus, Secretary, BDI
Parhez Sattar, Executive Member, BDI

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH

**Registration: TSAI Auditorium
Friday June 13, 2008
7:30 – 8:30 AM (to continue)**

**Opening Session: TSAI Auditorium
Friday June 13, 2008
8:30 – 9:30 AM**

Welcome address

Gowher Rizvi
Director Ash Institute of Governance and Innovation,
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Introductory remarks

Syed Saad Andaleeb
President, BDI
Professor & Program Chair
Pennsylvania State University, Erie

Conference Inauguration

H.E. Humayun Kabir
Ambassador of Bangladesh to USA, Washington, D.C., USA

Statement by

Kazi F. Jalal,
Chairperson, DDBF
Faculty, Harvard University Extension School

Keynote address

Jamilur Reza Choudhury
Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University

Tea Break
9:30 – 10:00

Special Plenary Session: TSAI Auditorium
Bangladesh's Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations
Theme Paper presentation
10:00 – 11:30

Theme Paper: “Bangladesh Foreign Policy in the Twenty First Century: Past, Present and Future”
— Farooq Sobhan, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Discussants:

- Gowher Rizvi, Ash Institute, Harvard University, USA
- Donald Camp, Department of State, Washington, D.C., USA
- H.E. Humayun Kabir, Ambassador, Bangladesh Embassy, USA

Session 1: TSAI Auditorium

Infrastructure: General

Session Chair: Sufian A. Khondker (Dewberry, New York and AABEA, USA)

11:30 – 1:00

- A Spatial Distribution of Infrastructures in the Districts of Bangladesh
— Niger Sultana, Sangida Mazumder, Shakila Sharmin and Ishrat Islam (BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- The Padma Barrage/Bridge Combined Project
— Sufian A. Khondker (Dewberry, New York, USA and AABEA, USA)
- Floods in Bangladesh: Probable Solutions
— Kazi F. Jalal (Chairperson, DDBF and Faculty, Harvard University Extension School)

Session 2: PORTE Room
Political and Development Strategies and Human Security
Session Chair: Syedur Rahman (Penn State, University Park)
11:30 – 1:00

- Unity in Diversity — A Roadmap for Cohesive and Inclusive Strategy
— Dewan Sadek Afzal (Traco Group, Saudi Arabia and SERVE Foundation, USA)
- Mastaans in the Middle: Power, Politics and the Pursuit of Wellbeing in Contemporary Bangladesh
— Joe Devine (University of Bath, UK)
- Glimpses of Work Experiences in Two Ministries & Lessons Thereof
— Muslehuddin Ahmad (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Session 3: BELFER Room
Politics: Revitalizing Democracy
Session Chair: Tariq A. Karim (George Washington University and University of Maryland)
11:30 – 1:00

- Development, Democracy and the NGO Sector: Theory and Evidence from Bangladesh
— Sabeel Rahman (Oxford University, Oxford, UK)
- Can Proportional Representation Help Stabilize Democracy in Bangladesh?
— Nazrul Islam (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and BEN)
- Bangladesh in the Twenty-First Century: Democracy, Development, Terrorism and its Counter-Forces
— Naureen Chowdhury Fink (International Peace Academy, New York, USA)

Session 4: SEMINAR Room
Employment, Labor and Technology Innovation
Session Chair: Syed A. Hasnath (Executive Member, DDBF)
11:30 – 1:00

- Determinants of Non-Farm Employments in Rural Bangladesh: A Case of Comilla Sadar Upazila
— Mohammad Abdul Malek and Koichi Usami (The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Tottori University, Japan)
- Policy Framework for Industrialization of IACs: Transfer, Adaptation or Procreation of Technology
— Shafi A. Khaled (Century College, Minnesota, USA)
- Labor Standards in Bangladesh: Implications for Domestic and Foreign Trade Policy
— Shamarukh Mohiuddin (GlobalWorks Foundation and Business Coalition for Capacity Building, Washington, D.C., USA)

Lunch Break
1:00 – 2:00

Luncheon Speaker: Masihur Rahman, Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance, (External Relations Division) and author, *“Democracy in Bangladesh: Crisis and Retrieval”*.

Brief Presentation on *“Twenty Years of BDI”* by Ashraf Ali, Treasurer, BDI.

Session 5: TSAI Auditorium
Economics and Finance: Capital Flows — FDI and Remittances
Session Chair: Caf Dowlah (City University of New York — Queensborough College)
2:00 – 3:30

- FDI: No More Than Just a Pipe Dream for Bangladesh?
— Shafi A. Khaled (Century College, Minnesota, USA)
- A Study on Performance and Challenges of Remittances Inflows in Bangladesh
— Md. Golzare Nabi and Md. Mahmudul Alam (Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Grameenphone, Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- Impact of Remittance on Living Standard of Rural People in Bangladesh — Case Studies on Some Selected Villages
— Gulsan Ara Parvin, Md. Musleh Uddin Hasan, and Farhana Yasmin (BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

**Session 6: PORTE Room
Healthcare**

**Session Chair: Syed Saad Andaleeb (Pennsylvania State University, Erie and BDI, USA)
2:00 – 3:30**

- Estimating “Best Practice” in Private Medical Clinics in Bangladesh: A Case for Changing Managerial Practices to Improve Efficiency
— Mohammad A. Rahman (California State University, Fresno, California, USA)
- Health Service Quality: The State of Hospital Care in Bangladesh
— Syed Saad Andaleeb (Pennsylvania State University, Erie, USA)
- “Poriborton Holo Kaler Dhormo” — Change Is Tomorrow’s Religion: Opportunities in Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals for Bangladesh
— Iqbal Hussain, Aminur Rahman and Murad Husain (Astellas Pharma US Inc., Country Director — IMS Health, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and Savient Pharmaceuticals, USA)

Session 7: BELFER Room

**Session by Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN)
Chair: Nazrul Islam (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
2:00 – 3:30**

- Preserving Forests: Why and for Whom?
— Farida C. Khan (University of Wisconsin — Parkside, Wisconsin, USA)
- Energy Challenges and Opportunities: World and Bangladesh
— Ahmed Badruzzaman (University of California, Berkeley, California, USA and BEN)
- RB-NRB cooperation and the BAPA-BEN Experience
— Nazrul Islam (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and, BEN)

Session 8: SEMINAR Room
NGO Development and Microfinance
Session Chair: Mahabub Hossain (Executive Director, BRAC, Bangladesh)
2:00 – 3:30

- Identifying the Seasonal Migration Pattern of Labor and Evaluating the Effectiveness of NGO in the Lean Period: Evidence from Bangladesh
— Abu Shonchoy (University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia)
- Microfinance and Poverty Reduction: Evidence from a Longitudinal Panel Database
— Mohammad A. Razzaque (Commonwealth Secretariat, London, UK and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- NGO Funding and Aid Dependency: A Case Study in Bangladesh
— Aeshna Badruzzaman (University of California, Berkeley, USA)

Tea Break
3:30 – 3:45

Session 9: TSAI Auditorium
Politics: Democracy and Security Policy
Session Chair: Matiur Rahman (Editor, Prothom Alo)
3:45 – 5:15

- Rethinking Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Changing the Paradigm: From Conflict Mitigation to Integrated Development in the Bangladesh, Bhutan, NE India and Nepal Sub-Region
— Tariq A. Karim (George Washington University and University of Maryland)
- Security and Democracy: The Case of Bangladesh
— Zillur R. Khan (University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin, USA)
- Democracy and Institutional Building: The Way Forward
— Syedur Rahman (Pennsylvania State University, University Park)

Session 10: PORTE Room
Gender, Education and Development
Session Chair: Adnan Z. Morshed (The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.)
3:45 – 5:15

- Factors Associated with Gender Stereotypes about College Majors of Bangladeshi Undergraduates
— Syeda Tonima Hadi (University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA)
- The Indirect Benefits of Women's Education in Developing Countries: A Case Study from Bangladesh
— Selina Akhter and Ann Hodgkinson (Planning Commission, Bangladesh and University of Wollongong, Australia)
- Challenges for the Women's Movement in Bangladesh: Engaging Religion, State and NGO Politics
— Elora H. Chowdhury (University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA)

Session 11: BELFER Room
Education: Quality and Innovation
Session Chair: Halimur Khan (US Air Force Academy)
3:45 – 5:15

- Let Base of the Pyramid People Drive Development through Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
— Emdad Khan (InternetSpeech, Inc., San Jose, California, USA)
- Student Politics in Bangladesh: An Impact on Quality Assurance in Education and National Development
— Mirja Mohammad Shahjamal and Gazi Mahabubul Alam (BRAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- Adapting New Pedagogical Methods for Learning Science: An Opportunity for Bangladesh in the New Millennium
— Shafiqur M. Rahman (Dept. of Physics, Allegheny College, Pennsylvania, USA)

Session 12: SEMINAR Room
Infrastructure: General
Session Chair: Golam M. Mathbor (Monmouth University, New Jersey, USA)
3:45 – 5:15

- Household Socioeconomic Characteristics and Settlement Location Decisions in a Riverbank Erosion-Prone Area of Bangladesh
 - Muhammad Ziaulhaq Mamun (Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- Biman's Growth Options vis-à-vis Indispensability of an Air Traffic
 - Najmun Noor (Former Deputy General Manager of Biman; now in Tennessee, USA)
- Impact of Spontaneous Site Development on the Existing Transportation System
 - Md. Shohel Reza Amin and Osama Hasan (Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Friday June 13 — Closing Remarks and Announcements
TSAI Auditorium
5:15 – 5:30

Friday June 13
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Cultural Program
Directed by Kazi Shahjahan Belal

**Friday June 13
Dinner
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Dinner Speaker: Rounaq Jahan, Senior Research Scholar and
Adjunct Faculty, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University.**

Title of the Talk: Political Reforms: Players and Prospects

Abstract: Political reforms have emerged as a major agenda item of public discourse in the last few years in Bangladesh. A few civil society groups and the media initiated the discussions highlighting the democracy deficits and underscoring the need for political reforms. Political parties also talked about reforms but mainly when they were in the opposition. Reforms were put in the backburner when parties assumed government power. In 2005, the Awami League led 14 party alliance announced a 23 point program that pledged wide ranging reforms, but their commitment to reforms became questionable when they subsequently violated some of their own reform promises. Since 1/11/2007, it is the military backed government of Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed that is pushing the idea of political reforms. Political parties have not been able to proactively promote a coherent and comprehensive reforms agenda. Initially after 1/11, the parties started discussing about reforms, but since the arrest of their two leaders, the two major parties have gone silent on the issue prioritizing instead the release of the leaders. They are complaining that reforms have become a wedge issue dividing and weakening political parties. It is not clear when political parties will take up the issue of reforms seriously and demonstrate some leadership on it. Civil society and the media have become quite muted caught in a dilemma as to how far to go in support of reforms being sponsored by an unelected military backed government. The apparent vulnerability of the reforms agenda calls for an analysis of the incentives as well as constraints of the key players and the support base for the reforms.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

Special Plenary Session — BRAC at 35: TSAI Auditorium
Organizer: A. Mushtaque R. Chowdhury (BRAC, Bangladesh)
Chair: Mahabub Hossain (BRAC, Bangladesh)
9:00 – 10:30

- New Horizons
 - A 12-Minute Video on BRAC
- BRAC in Poverty Reduction
 - Mahabub Hossain (BRAC, Bangladesh)
- BRAC in Education
 - Manzoor Ahmed (IED, BRAC, Bangladesh)
- BRAC in Health Improvements
 - Kausar Afsana (BRAC, Bangladesh)
- Commentators
 - Marty Chen (Harvard University) and Richard Cash (Harvard University)

Tea Break
10:30 – 10:45

Session 13: TSAI Auditorium
Education: Impact on Development and Politics
Session Chair: Mawdudur Rahman (Professor, Suffolk University, Boston)
10:45 – 12:15

- Building Knowledge Zones and Learning Communities: Avenues for Strengthening Knowledge Generation (Research)
 - Syed Saad Andaleeb (Pennsylvania State University, Erie, USA)
- Education Priorities for Human Resource Centered Development in Bangladesh
 - Manzoor Ahmed and James H. Williams (BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., USA)
- Towards a Policy for Bilingual Education in Bangladesh
 - Sakil Malik (International Reading Association, Washington, D.C., USA)

Session 14: PORTE Room
Microfinance, Education and Development
Session Chair: M. Faizul Islam (Southeastern University, Washington, D.C.)
10:45 – 12:15

- Micro-credit: Extent of Utilization, Dependency and Indebtedness of the Poor
 - Gulsan Ara Parvin, Peter J. Marcotullio and Muhammed Emranul Haq (BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh. United Nations University, New York, USA. Urban Primary Health Care Project II, Asian Development Bank)
- Persons with Disabilities Self-Initiative to Development
 - Md. Abdus Sattar Dulal and William M. Winkley (Bangladeshi Protibandhi Kallyan Somity, Dhaka, Bangladesh. One Family International, Louisiana, USA)
- Madrasas and NGOs: Complements or Substitutes? Non-State Providers and Growth in Female Education in Bangladesh
 - Mohammad Niaz Asadullah and Nazmul Chaudhury (Department of Economics, University of Reading, UK and South Asia Human Development — SASHD)
- Holy Alliances: Public Subsidies, Islamic High Schools, and Female Schooling in Bangladesh
 - Mohammad Niaz Asadullah and Nazmul Chaudhury

Session 15: BELFER Room
Environment, Energy, and Development
Chair: Kazi F. Jalal (Chairperson, DDBF and Faculty, Harvard University Extension School)
10:45 – 12:15

- The Untapped Energy Mine: The Revolutionary Scope of Renewable Energy Technologies for Bangladesh
— Sajed Kamal (Brandeis University in Massachusetts, USA)
- Design and Implementation of Low Cost Efficient Septic System in Bangladesh
— Souren Modak, Partha Modak and Sukomal Modak (Computer Aided Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Dhaka, Bangladesh. BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Computers and Structures, Inc., Berkeley, California and Executive Member, BDI, USA)
- Strategies for Sustainable Forest Conservation Practice: A Case Study on Lawachara National Park
— Umma Tamima and Md. Shohel Reza Amin (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Session 16: SEMINAR Room
Economics and Finance: Private Sector Development
Session Chair: Akhand Akhtar Hossain (The University of Newcastle, Australia)
10:45 – 12:15

- Economic Symbiosis: A Viable Option for Developing Countries like Bangladesh
— Ashraf Ali (The Boeing Company and BDI, Seattle, USA)
- Readymade Garment Exports — The Bangladeshi Miracle
— Anisul Islam and Munir Quddus (University of Houston, USA. Prairie View A&M University, Texas, USA)
- An Anatomy of Economic Underdevelopment
— Shaikh A. Hamid (Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA)

Lunch Break
12:15 – 1:15

Luncheon Speaker: Mamun Rashid, MD & Citi Country Officer, Bangladesh.
Title: *“Bangladesh Capital Market: Prospects & Challenges”*

Brief Presentation on DDBF by Mahmood Akhter, Secretary & Treasurer, DDBF.

Session 17: TSAI Auditorium

Economics and Finance: Capital Flows — Economic Development Policies, Aid and Investment

Session Chair: Ifty Islam (Asian Tiger Capital Partners)

1:15 – 2:45

- Macroeconomic Developments, Policies and Issues in Bangladesh: A Review, 1972–2007
— Akhand Akhtar Hossain (The University of Newcastle, Australia)
- Aid, Debt, and Development in Bangladesh: Synergies or Contradictions
— Bernhard G. Gunter, A. F. M. Ataur Rahman, and Jesmin Rahman (Bangladesh Development Research Center, Virginia, USA. North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. International Monetary Fund, Washington, D.C., USA)
- Foreign Direct Investment and Investment Climate: Comparing Bangladesh with Selected Countries in South Asia
— Rahim Quazi and Munir Quddus (Prairie View A&M University, Texas, USA)

Session 18: PORTE Room

Politics, Foreign Policy and Peace

Session Chair: Farooq Sobhan (Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

1:15 – 2:45

- Hurting the Host: The Dynamics of Refugee-Related Violence in Bangladesh
— Navine Murshid (University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA)
- Peace In The Chittagong Hill Tracts: Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel?
— Zakia Afrin (Golden Gate University, San Francisco, USA)
- Inadequate Government Economic Policy Directives Threaten Human Security in Bangladesh
— Golam M. Mathbor and Subrina Mahmood (Monmouth University, New Jersey, USA)

Session 19: BELFER Room
Shrimp Industry and Development
Session Chair: Nazia Habib-Mintz (University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK)
1:15 – 2:45

- To What Extent Can Primary Sector Producers in LDCs Move up the Global Commodity Chain? A Case Study on the Bangladesh Shrimp Industry
— Nazia Habib-Mintz (University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK)
- From Public to Private Governance: Opportunities and Challenges for Bangladesh Shrimp Aquaculture in the Era of Certification
— Md. Saidul Islam (York University, Toronto, Canada)

Session 20: SEMINAR Room
Education: Improving Quality
Session Chair: Abdul Momen (Framingham State College, Massachusetts)
1:15 – 2:45

- Higher Education in the 21st Century: Strategies for Integrating Multi-Faceted Institutional Systems in Bangladesh
— Abdul Mannan and Farzana Mannan (University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, and Independent Researcher, Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- Lack of Curricular Relevance in Secondary School Education in Bangladesh: An Evaluation of the Curriculum and Recommendations to Remove this Barrier to Equality of Educational Opportunity
— Halimur Khan (US Air Force Academy, Colorado, USA)
- Quantifying Achievement in Education in the Perspective of SSC and HSC Level Examination Systems in Bangladesh
— Sukomal Modak (Computers and Structures, Inc., Berkeley, California and Executive Member, BDI, USA)
- A Theoretical Framework for Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Bangladesh
— Bashir Ahmed Bhuiyan, Kawsar Ahmmed, Shahansha Molla (Leading University, Sylhet, Bangladesh)

Tea Break
2:45 – 3:00

Session 21: Breakaway Sessions
3:00 – 4:15

Breakaway Session 1: TSAI Auditorium

Environment, Energy, Infrastructure & Water Resources
Team Leaders: Sufian A. Khondker and Nazrul Islam

Breakaway Session 2: TSAI Auditorium

NGO, Health & Population
Team Leader: William M. Winkley

Breakaway Session 3: PORTE Room

Education
Team Leader: Manzoor Ahmed

Breakaway Session 4: BELFER Room

Economics — Industry & Employment
Team Leader: Munir Quddus

Breakaway Session 5: Seminar Room

Democracy, Nation Building & Governance
Team Leader: Zillur R. Khan

Breakaway Session 6: PORTE Room

Economics — Macroeconomic Issues and Financial Inflows
Team Leader: Farida C. Khan

Saturday June 14 Closing Session
TSAI Auditorium
4:15 – 5:30

Presentation by team leaders (5 minutes per leader) highlighting 3–5 main suggestions for Bangladesh in the 21st Century. Each team leader will be responsible for preparing a 3–5 page summary of the recommendations, in collaboration with group members, to be submitted in two weeks to the Bangladesh Government, the media, development agencies, think tanks, research organizations, and other relevant bodies.

Comments by Mr. Matiur Rahman (Editor, Prothom Alo)

Concluding remarks by the Conference Co-Chairs: Dr. Kazi F. Jalal and Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb

Raffle draw

Vote of thanks

Table 3: Summary of Session Schedule

Date and Time	TSAI Auditorium	PORTE Room	BELFER Room	SEMINAR Room
JUNE 13, FRIDAY				
7:30–8:30	Registration			
8:30–9:30	Opening Session			
9:30–10:00		Tea Break		
10:00–11:30	Special Plenary Session Bangladeshs Foreign Policy Theme Paper Presentation by Farooq Sobhan			
11:30–1:00	Session 1 Infrastructure: General Chair: Sufian A. Khondker	Session 2 Political and Development Strategies and Human Security Chair: Syedur Rahman	Session 3 Politics: Revitalizing Democracy Chair: Tariq A. Karim	Session 4 Employment, Labor and Technology Innovation Chair: Syed A. Hasnath
1:00-2:00	Lunch Break, Luncheon Speaker: Masihur Rahman Brief Presentation on “ <i>Twenty Years of BDI</i> ” by Ashraf Ali			
2:00–3:30	Session 5 Economics and Finance: Capital Flows, FDI & Remittances Chair: Caf Dowlah	Session 6 Healthcare Chair: Syed Saad Andaleeb	Session 7 Session by Bangladesh Environment Network Chair: Nazrul Islam	Session 8 NGO Development and Microfinance Chair: Mahabub Hossain
3:30–3:45	Tea Break			
3:45–5:15	Session 9 Politics: Democracy and Security Policy Chair: Matiur Rahman	Session 10 Gender, Education and Development Chair: Adnan Z. Morshed	Session 11 Education: Quality and Innovation Chair: Halimur Khan	Session 12 Infrastructure: General Chair: Golam M. Mathbor
5:15–5:30	Closing Remarks and Announcements			
6:30-7:30	Cultural Program, Dir: Kazi Shahjahan Belal			
7:30-9:00	Dinner, Dinner Speaker: Rounaq Jahan Talk: Political Reforms: Players and Prospects			

Table 3: Summary of Session Schedule (*continued*)

Date and Time	TSAI Auditorium	PORTE Room	BELFER Room	SEMINAR Room
JUNE 14, SATURDAY				
9:00–10:30	Special Plenary Session BRAC at 35 Chair: Mahabub Hossain			
10:30–10:45		Tea Break		
10:45–12:15	Session 13 Education: Impact on Development and Politics Chair: Mawdudur Rahman	Session 14 Microfinance, Education and Development Chair: M. Faizul Islam	Session 15 Environment, Energy, and Development Chair: Kazi F. Jalal	Session 16 Economics and Finance: Private Sector Development Chair: Akhand Akhtar Hossain
12:15–1:15		Lunch Break, Luncheon Speaker: Mamun Rashid Talk: “ <i>Bangladesh Capital Market: Prospects & Challenges</i> ” Brief Presentation on DDBF by Mahmood Akhter		
1:15–2:45	Session 17 Economics and Finance: Capital Flows ... Chair: Ifty Islam	Session 18 Politics, Foreign Policy and Peace Chair: Farooq Sobhan	Session 19 Shrimp Industry and Development Chair: Nazia Habib-Mintz	Session 20 Education: Improving Quality Chair: Abdul Momen
2:45–3:00		Tea Break		
3:00–4:15		Breakaway Sessions		
4:15–5:30	Closing Session Presentation by Team Leaders Concluding Remarks Raffle Draw Vote of Thanks			

CONFERENCE SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BANGLADESH STUDIES (AIBS)



The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies is pleased to support the upcoming BDI-DDBF-Harvard conference this June. We are especially delighted that research and policy work on Bangladesh will be featured in ways that help to share the wonders of Bangladesh with a broad academic community. Best wishes for an excellent conference. AIBS looks forward to hearing about your accomplishments when the conference is concluded.

MESSAGE FROM CITIBANK, N.A. BANGLADESH



Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh is proud to support the scholarly conference on *Bangladesh in the 21st Century* at Harvard University. Bangladesh is well on its way to becoming a globally integrated regional economic and commercial hub. Economists around the world are at awe at the overwhelming success of this South-Asian nation. We believe a very critical moment in history awaits Bangladesh. We hope this conference will bring all important stakeholders to one platform to explore the glorious opportunity that looms in the horizon to change the economic fate of millions of people.

With Citi's global network and world-class financial services expertise, we want to be fully engaged in supporting this country's economic development. We thank Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI); Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF) and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation, Harvard University for taking this milestone initiative and wish the program a grand success.



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MESSAGE FROM MGH GROUP, BANGLADESH



MGH Group, Bangladesh, is proud to be associated with the conference on *Bangladesh in the 21st Century* held at Harvard University. The resilience of Bangladeshis, as they persistently embrace the challenges posed by new global economic, social, and climate changes, has positioned Bangladesh as a model nation able to turn its disadvantages into outright strengths. The timing of this conference is perfectly in line with major achievements and growth in readymade garments, manpower exports, port efficiency, and a common belief held today that Bangladesh is on its way to becoming a Middle Income Nation within less than a decade.

MGH Group, a Dhaka headquartered conglomerate, has owned operations in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mauritius, Madagascar as well as investments into Supply Chain Management of Global Retailers, Container Terminals, Aviation Services, Tea & Rubber Plantations, Media & Entertainment, Commercial and Retail Banking, Branded Food & Beverages, and Information Technology respectively.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI); Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF) and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation, Harvard University, for this outstanding initiative where the world will have a glimpse of a future economic tiger — Bangladesh.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME BANK LIMITED, BANGLADESH



It's a privilege for Prime Bank Limited to be associated with the organizers of the conference, *Bangladesh in the 21st Century*, at Harvard University, USA.

Bangladesh, as a developing country has a legacy of economic, political and social challenges; without attending to them it can never fight its way to becoming a recognized emerging nation in the world. We are happy to learn that there are people who really care for Bangladesh and are prepared to take bold initiatives and provide appropriate guidance and policy directions.

We are delighted that the effort will bring many scholars and policy makers together to discuss and debate the issues facing the country under one platform. We hope initiatives like this will help synchronize the efforts undertaken by various parties. We also believe it will benefit the academics and researchers who will present their papers at the conference.

Prime Bank would like to thank the organizers for the initiative and wish the conference great success.

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