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Towards the Search of Brilliance

Perspective

Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh and Slow down of Repatriation Process



Overview of the
Two-Year Taliban
Resurgence in
Afghanistan:

**The Future of
Afghanistan**



The Rohingya Crisis and the Prospects of Repatriation



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Editorial

Bangladesh achieved a functional democracy through a long struggle since its independence in 1971. The people of this state have been benefited from such democratic electoral system. Unfortunately for unwanted and unhealthy rivalry between political parties of the country this electoral system is at stake. After abolition of 'Care Taker Government System' by the government as per order the court, opposition parties are claiming the reinforcement of the system for a free and fair election. Now, considering previous national elections especially of 2013 and 2018 as questionable, USA has declared its VISA policy to impose sanctions on those individuals or institutions that would impede free and fair election. They do not mention any specific means of electoral system, but their gesture indicates that they are in support of lawful demand of opposite parties. Whatever the means, USA is determined to ensure free and fair election in Bangladesh. Since last several years, we have witnessed the 'war on terror' project of USA and economic rise of china simultaneously. Being afraid of the rise of china, USA has ended its 'war on terror' project and shifted its target towards china. As a part of encompassing and engulfing china, Bangladesh has become a major part of this plan. Till now, Bangladesh kept a balance between china-USA rivalries. But time has changed and USA is determined for free and fair election and Bangladesh as a developing country is incapable of handling such economic sanction. If political parties fail to come to a solution for free and fair election and USA impose economic sanction that would jeopardize economic stability of the country.

Whatever the means of electoral system, we believe that only a free and fair election can relieve us from all possible difficulties. Such election will ensure national interest and accountability of all stake holders to the people of the country. Such people oriented government and accountability will reduce bribe and illegal gratification. We request all political parties to ensure a free and fair election for the betterment of country.

Editor-in-Chief
The Perspective



ANNOUNCEMENT

Dears,

We are pleased to inform you that the perspective is going through an immense change. We have decided to change the pattern and features of the magazine. The perspective has been being published as a monthly magazine since the very beginning. Now, the perspective family has decided to publish it bimonthly (one time in every two month). Moreover, we have decided to exclude some regular features like periscope, editor's choice and policy debate. We have also decided to change the slogan of the magazine. At the same time, we have decided to include 'editorial' part to share the views of perspective with its beloved readers, writers and well-wishers. The perspective is now knocking at your door in a new look. We request you to send the quality writings to the perspective and share your knowledge with us. We highly recommend to add reference in your writings. We prefer use Harvard Reference System to use in the article. Moreover, the articles not publishable in the Magazine, we have decided to published those in the website.

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Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh and Slow down of Repatriation Process

Anas Ibne Monir

● Cover Story

The Rohingya crisis stands as one of the most severe and protracted humanitarian emergencies in the world, with profound implications for regional stability and human rights. The Rohingya population in Myanmar has historically been persecuted and subjected to discrimination as the problem has developed. The United Nations (UN) described this cruelty as the worst possible crime against humanity and a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.



The importance of Bangladesh's diplomacy in addressing the Rohingya crisis cannot be overstated. Bangladesh has attempted to put pressure on Myanmar through diplomatic initiatives and engagements to accept its obligations and take real action to end the conflict. With more than 1.3 million Rohingya refugees in total Bangladesh now has the world's largest refugee camp located in Cox's Bazar district. Bangladesh has used diplomacy to pressure Myanmar into performing its obligations and coming up with a solution. 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol can show the obstacles and responsibilities of the countries, especially Bangladesh.

Genealogy of the Rohingyas

The Rohingya crisis, unfolding

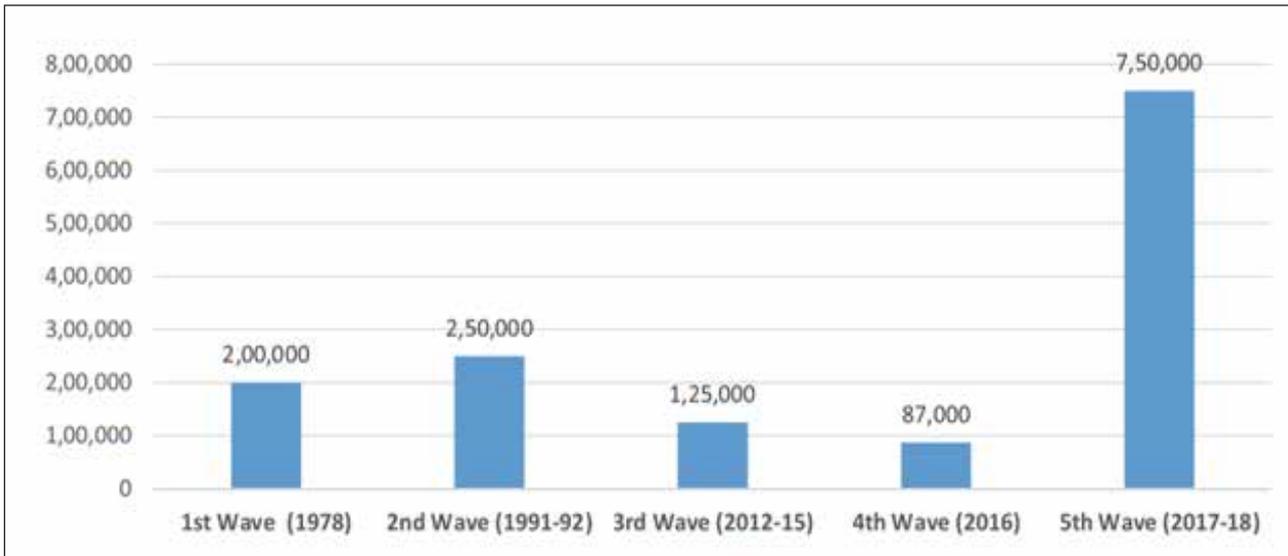
in Myanmar's Rakhine State, has captured global attention due to its immense humanitarian implications and complex historical background. Records suggest that the Rohingya, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group, have inhabited the region since at least the 15th century. They have distinct cultural, linguistic, and religious identities, the majority of whom practice Islam.

The historical persecution and discrimination against the Rohingya can be traced back to the post-independence period in Myanmar. The 1982 Citizenship Law removed the Rohingyas' citizenship and right to self-identification. The government of Myanmar has been brutally killing and violently oppressing the Rohingya people for decades, forcing them to flee their

The importance of Bangladesh's diplomacy in addressing the Rohingya crisis cannot be overstated.

homeland and seek refuge in neighboring nations. The government of Myanmar has been brutally killing and violently oppressing the Rohingya people for decades, forcing them to flee their homeland and seek refuge in neighboring nations. The majority of the persecuted Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh.

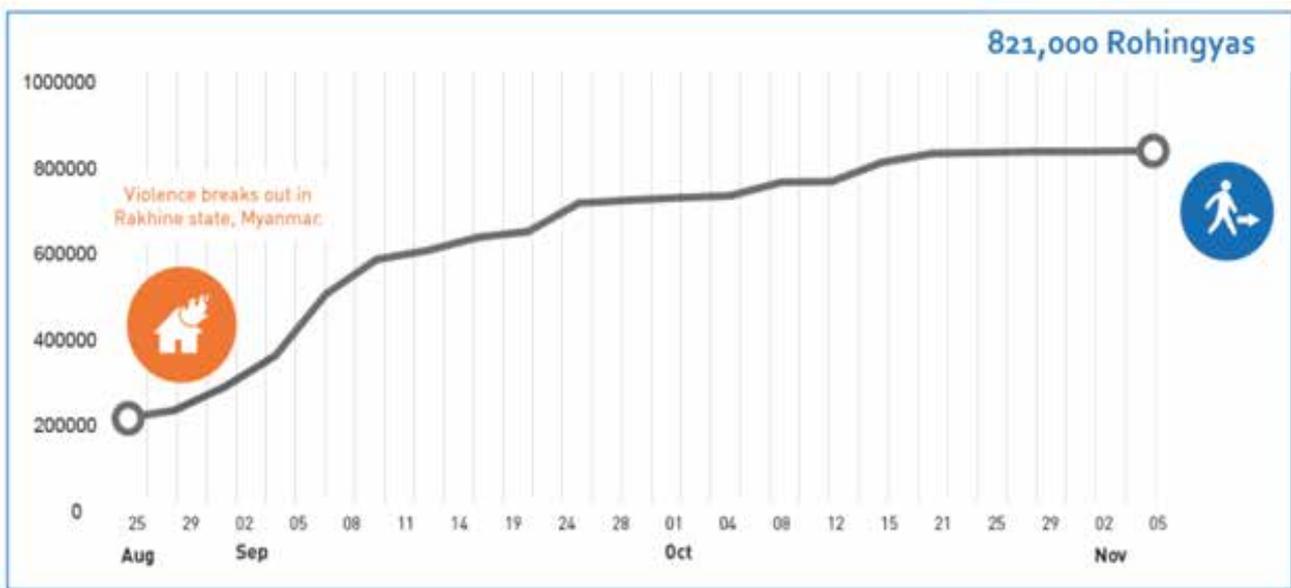
Figure 1. Five Waves of Rohingya Influx in Bangladesh 1978–2018



Source: Inter-Sector Coordination Group on Rohingya, Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Recent Influx to Bangladesh

According to the office of Cox's Bazar District Commissioner, 605,000 Rohingyas landed in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district between August 25 and October 25, 2017. The Rohingya camps are concentrated in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas. Apart from these two regions, over 200,000 Rohingyas live in the surrounding areas of Ramu, Cox's Bazar poursova, Bandarban, Chittagong, and other Chittagong district areas.

Figure 2: Trend in Rohingya influx to Bangladesh since 25 August 2017



Source: Situation Report: Rohingya Refugee Crisis by UN OCHA (2017).



According to the UN OCHA (2017), till 25 October 2017, the cumulative number of Rohingyas staying in Bangladesh is 1,008,431. These include both old and new entrants. The situation deteriorated in 2012, when communal violence erupted in Rakhine State, pitting the Rohingya against the Buddhist majority population. The violence caused widespread displacement and loss of life, exacerbating tensions and deepening the cycle of violence and persecution.

Factors contributing to the escalation of the crisis

Political, social, and economic issues all contributed to the intensification of the Rohingya

conflict and the resulting flow of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh. Prof Ali Riaz of the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, USA, said Bangladesh was praised in international forums for its caring reaction to Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar, but the refugee crisis exposed "how Bangladesh's interests were largely ignored by its friends, such as India, China, and Russia."

Former Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States M Humayun Kabir stated, "We had an expectation that we would get India to stand with Bangladesh in repatriating Rohingyas. We did not get it from our close friend. They should have taken an

ethical position on humanitarian grounds at least." He continued to say that the positions adopted by India and China on the Rohingya crisis indicated that Bangladesh has few friends.

Analysts of international relations have pointed out that Bangladesh is facing geopolitical and geostrategic challenges for three reasons. They are as follows: first, the shelter of Rohingyas escaping Myanmar's Rakhine state; second, the process of their repatriation; and third, the backwardness of deep seaports. These facts indicate that Bangladesh has a lack of diplomatic moves. China, one of Bangladesh's largest development partners, was not in Bangladesh's favor.

Prospects of Repatriation

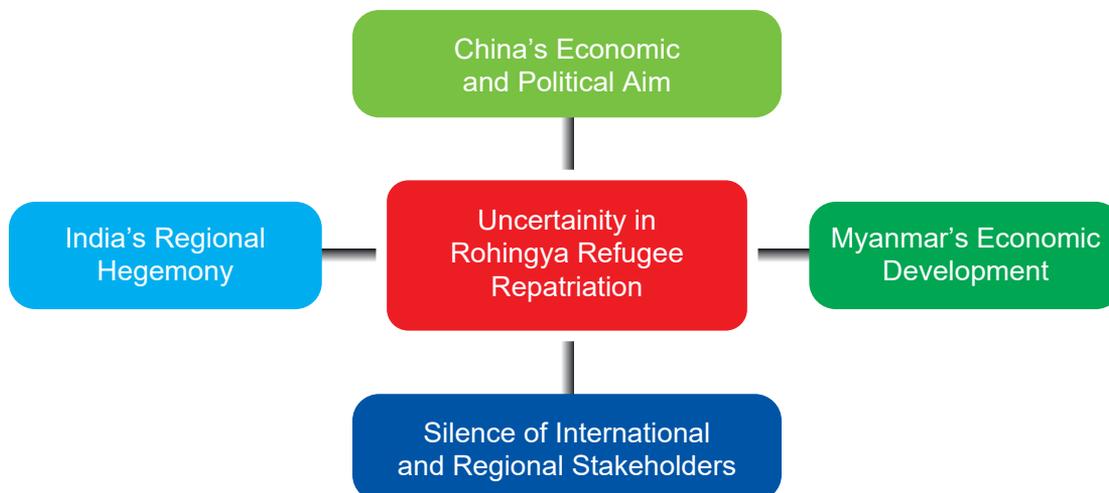
Rohingyas have limited civil liberties in Myanmar as citizens. Consequently, many of the Rohingyas who were repatriated to Myanmar returned to Bangladesh again. This brings the challenge to the sustainability of durable solutions. According to a recent study, 67% of the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh said they would be prepared to return to their homes in Myanmar provided the government satisfied certain requirements. The state of origin rarely cares about its reputation as a "persecutor" and shows little interest in accepting the refugees when population expulsion is a military tactic or a component of a larger policy of exclusion. Currently, if the Rohingya return to Myanmar, they will most likely be placed in camps that have been heavily criticized for lacking basic amenities.

The Bangladeshi consensus on not allowing Rohingyas local integration originates from the fact that the nation is already overpopulated. The labor market is often overloaded and unable to employ around 40% of its people. Bangladesh would suffer if one million Rohingyas were granted citizenship. It may fuel nationalist sentiments against foreigners and negatively impact domestic politics. Bangladesh's capacity to integrate Rohingyas raises three questions: Where should Rohingyas be housed? How would the citizens react? Who is paying the cost of the settlement?

In terms of the goals and perspectives of developed nations with refugee integration policies, the prospect of resettlement solutions varies. However, the lack of legal requirements, financial incentives for resettlement states and rising xenophobia at the domestic level all have an impact on the possibility of third-country resettlement.

There are several cases of resettling refugees from actual war, natural disasters, and ethnic conflicts in foreign countries. In 2016, Canada alone took in 25,000 Syrian refugees, compared to approximately 300,000 asylum applicants in Europe and Germany. The special representative of the Prime Minister of Canada suggested that Canada accept refugees from the Rohingya Community. In reality, traditional resettlement states like Canada, Australia, and the USA are reluctant to take in large numbers of Rohingya refugees, as they have been in other refugee crises. This shows that wealthier members of the international community are not doing enough to share the load. Mallick (2020) demonstrated how these factors create barriers to Rohingya repatriation.

Figure 4. Barriers of Rohingya Refugee Repatriation





Sustainable repatriation is a process by which refugees become self-sufficient and capable of supporting themselves, enabling them to fully integrate and participate in the economic and social life of their home country or new nation on an equal footing with the host community. The 1951 Convention on Refugees and its 1967 protocol identify voluntary repatriation, local integration, and third-country relocation as the three pillars of lasting solutions.

Thus, repatriation—as a “solution” to the refugee problem—must involve the process of national recognition and the restoration of a broad

range of political, social, and civil rights that together constitute meaningful citizenship. Generally, voluntary return is seen as the most desirable solution to refugee difficulties because of the guarantee of voluntariness, the clarification of security, and the support of people's permanent return and reintegration into their communities in non-political settings.

The second most used and preferred long-term solution is Local integration. According to Article 34 of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, “the contracting states shall as far as possible facilitate the

assimilation and naturalization of refugees”.

The only option for refugees who cannot return to their country of origin or stay in their nation of refuge securely is resettlement in a third country. Usually, such a decision is made only when all other alternatives have been explored and there is no other way to ensure the legal and physical protection of the affected parties. Repatriation is defined as the restoration of a refugee's “right to have rights” through the restoration of citizenship. It refers to a political process that involves reshaping the political community in order to effectively and meaningfully

restore the political, social, economic, and cultural rights of refugees.

Durable repatriation approach

A durable repatriation approach requires a long-term commitment from all stakeholders involved, including the governments of Myanmar, Bangladesh, and the international community. It should prioritize the rights, safety, and well-being of the Rohingya population and seek to address the root causes of their displacement to ensure a sustainable and just resolution to the crisis.

International support is crucial for the success of durable repatriation. The involvement of international organizations, such as the United Nations and relevant human rights bodies, can provide expertise, financial assistance, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the protection of the rights of returnees. International monitoring can help track progress, identify challenges, and hold all parties accountable for their commitments.

Rohingya refugees should choose repatriation freely and informedly. They should be

informed about security, services, and employment possibilities in their home countries. Repatriation should involve Rohingya consultation and decision-making. Rohingya returnees must be secured. This addresses Rohingya fears about returning to violence, persecution, or marginalization. International peacekeeping forces or monitoring mechanisms might make returnees feel safe.

The author of this article is studying at the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka.





The Immense Potentials of Ship Breaking Industry in Bangladesh

Ahmad Bhuiyan

US based research organization, Clarksons revealed that Bangladesh tops the ladder in ship recycling industry. In 2019, according to a report by the United Nations Trade and Development Organization (UNCTAD), Bangladesh recycled 57.6 percent of the world's ships. Apart from the cheap labor, the reason for Bangladesh's rise to prominence in shipwrecks is its dependence on steel supplies. In India, the basic raw material for making steel is iron ore. Presumably, they have less reliance on breaking old ships. Moreover, according to a report, China has stopped importing old ships from outside the country to reduce environmental pollution. As a result, Bangladesh is now becoming a huge market for ship scrap.

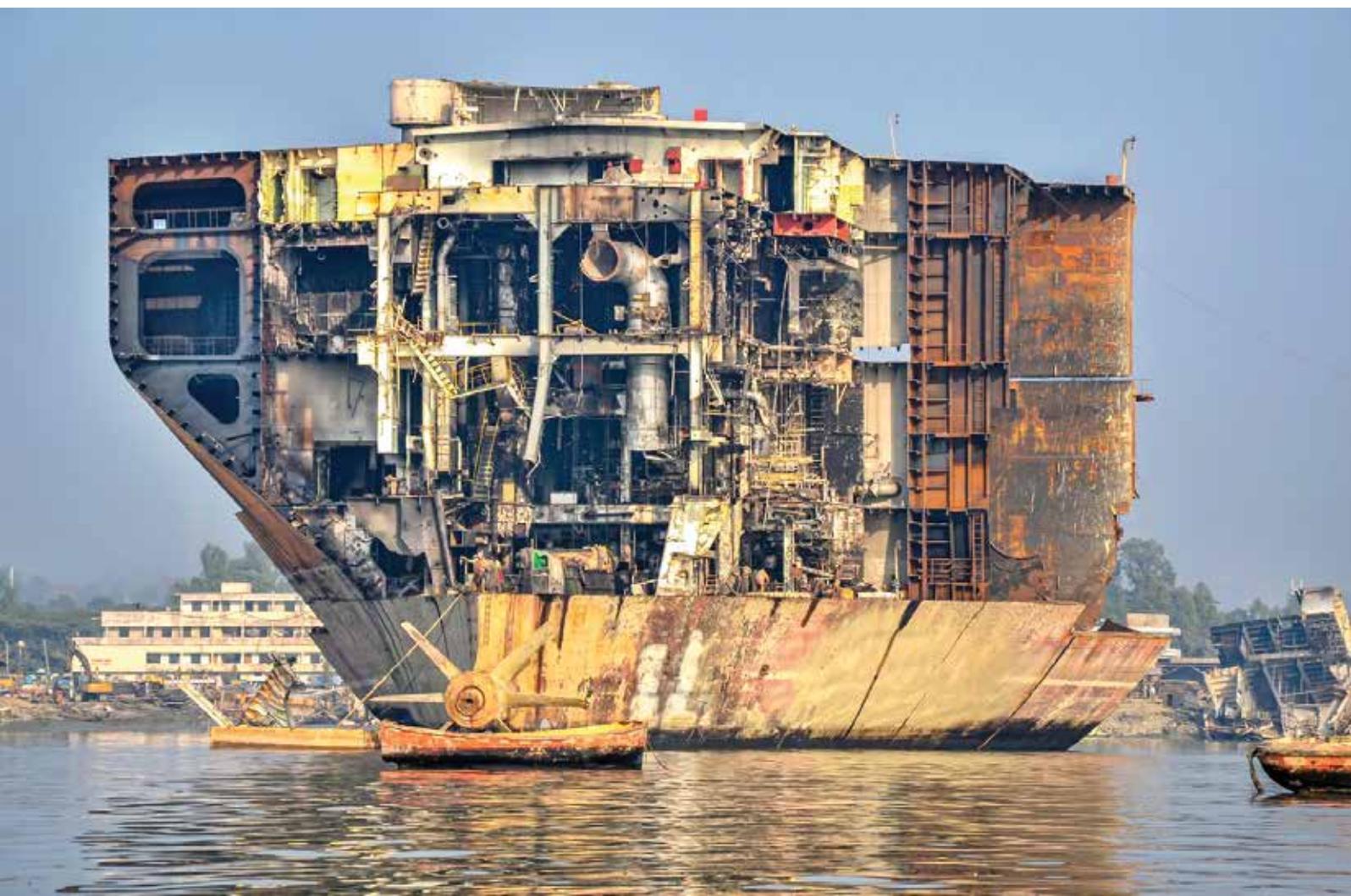
Basically, after decades of operation, when a ship is declared unsuitable for navigation, ship owners sell it in developing countries, especially in South Asians. Then the ships are scrapped and all the equipment as well as valuable parts are separated for recycling. According to YPS, each year about 600 ocean-going ships are abandoned worldwide. Apart from Bangladesh, old ships are wrecked and recycled in China, India, Pakistan and Turkey.

For third world developing country's economy, this industry has been universally acknowledged as a blessing. On October 30, 1970, a

catastrophic cyclone killed about ten thousand people in the coastal districts of Chittagong, Noakhali and Patuakhali. At that time the Greek ship M Alpine was stranded in the coastal area of Sitakunda. After being stranded there for several years, as the ship could not be floated in the sea, the then Chittagong Steel House broke the ship on its own initiative with the help of local people and sold its equipment and metal parts in local market. Since then, Bangladesh has been involved in today's ship breaking industry. However, ship-scrap commercially started in Bangladesh in 1974 with the help of Karnafuli Metal Works Limited. After a slow

pace throughout the eighties, the tide of investment in the industry began to flow mainly from the nineties. Dhaka or Chittagong based traders started leaning towards this business after seeing the possibility of double or triple profit by spending a certain amount of capital per ship. Thus, it became the commercial hub and now people from different parts of the country flock here in search of employment. About 50,000 people of the country are directly involved and about 0.1 million people are indirectly involved in this industry.

The industry is a significant source of steel which reduces



the need to import steel. It meets the demand of rod and steel in the local market of Bangladesh. At present the demand for steel in Bangladesh is about 50,000 tons, whereas our country does not have its own metal source or mine. About 70 per cent of the country's steel demand is met by the industry. Currently, there are more than 350 small and large steel re-rolling mills in our country and their main raw material is ship scrap.

Oil & chemical tankers, bulk carriers, container & passenger ships, general cargo, gas carriers, offshore vessels and others are among the ships brought for wrecking in

Bangladesh. About two and a half to three hundred 'wrecked' ships are cut every year and 300-500 people are employed to break up a ship depending on the size and quality of the ship. In addition, many crews are employed to make the ship's partially damaged parts suitable for recycling. Some of these recyclable products are exported and the rest are sold in local markets, which are reused later on Bangladeshi ships.

Every year, the government of Bangladesh earns hundreds of crores from this industry by levying various tariffs, which amounts nearly 10 billion. In its different hubs, this industry has

created employment for the poor and unskilled people who would have no employment opportunities elsewhere. It is considered a green industry too, since the ship and all the materials inside the ship can be recycled and resold. Just as the industry supplies raw materials to the steel industry, so does the industry provide a variety of furniture and electrical appliances?

However, these economic benefits should be considered together with social and environmental costs. It has been found that 84 per cent workers are not getting any medical benefits from these factories. Some local





organizations in Bangladesh have estimated that 1000-2000 workers have died in the last 30 years due to working in this heavy industry. According to the country's health statistics, the number of disabled people in Chittagong is above the average number of disabled people in the country. Also many workers have lost their limbs and performances.

The overall working environment of the shipbreaking industry is not yet fully worker friendly. The biggest allegation against this industry is the environmental pollution. Various chemicals, oils and waste products present

in the ship are mixed with the environment, which is destroying not only that area but also the environment of the surroundings. Residents in the surrounding area may be exposed to the same long-term health risks as workers in the area.

Another big concern is labor safety. Workers don't wear any mask or safe clothes while working. They work or forced to do these extremely risky jobs barefoot or wearing ordinary sandals. They are doing things with an acetylene torch, sitting on the deck of a ship full of chemical mud or combustible gas, with bare hands, bare feet,

without a mask and with a fear of being blown away by a gas explosion or collapse of heavy material from above.

It is true that cheap labor availability is a boon for the development of any industry in Bangladesh. However, capitalists are leveraging out of the workers. In a developing third world country, where population density is high, naturally there are more workers with less health benefits.

Moreover, the owners of the ship breaking industry do not pay heed to any rule. They buy the world's oldest toxic ship, sometimes they bring ships that



no country in the world wants to take, not even for free. According to the international rules, before sending a ship to the spot for wrecking, the ship must be sent free from harmful chemicals & harmful substances. European Union's Ship Recycling Act of 2013 say, no European flagged country can ship harmful asbestos, lead, chemicals and flammable substances to any shipbreaking yard. But the ships that are sent for wreckage do not comply with the rule all time. As the senders violate international rules, they change their flags before their ships landed in the yards of third world countries.

Though our country's early ship recycling industry had lost a lot of people along with environmental pollution, over time there has been some improvement due to strong law enforcement and the movement of some environmental organizations. However, there are still many shortcomings.

Now, from economic perspective, it does not seem realistic to stop the ship breaking industry. Again, it should not be allowed to continue as it is now. In this situation, the government and the owners have something to do to keep the industry afloat.

The safety of the workers engaged in shipwrecking should be given utmost priority. They should be given helmet & safety kits instead of hammer and sickle. Modern technological development



should be introduced too. In addition to the provision of compensation in case of mutilation or loss of life of the worker, there must be an insurance system for all the workers of the industry. This may reduce the amount of profit of the owners. But workers will get their rights and mutilation or death will be reduced. Hence, the development of industry will get pace in the right track.

Additionally, It has to be brought in the rules as well as it has to be implemented on how old ships can be brought in the yards, what kind of toxic waste ships cannot be brought in the country.

The Bangladesh government

introduced new national policies and laws in 2011 to improve the environmental and occupational health and safety standards of the shipbreaking industry. However, no significant progress has been made in its implementation so far. It is imperative to adhere to the government's policy on safety of workers and converting shipyards into green shipyards along with health protection of workers and adequate provision of first aid.

Workers are used as modern slaves, such an idea has been established in the world about the shipbuilding industry of Bangladesh. In order to get out of this, the initiative of the

government of the country is needed as well as the mentality of the owners should also be changed.

For sustainable development, we cannot eliminate the ship breaking industry. But we can make the industry more acceptable by reducing the amount of pollution from this industry and ensuring labor safety through good management. Because, the ship breaking industry is likely to go far away in the years to come.

The writer is independent analyst on business & international affairs

Harnessing Solar Power for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: A Path to Energy Security

SM Deen Amin

The importance of energy for human survival and development is paramount. Without proper energy use, a nation's functioning and growth are at risk, particularly in developing countries. As the world advances, energy demand is increasing exponentially due to technological progress and high demand. Fossil fuels, like natural gas, coal, and petroleum, are the primary sources of energy, but they contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. However, these fossil fuel resources are finite and rapidly depleting, prompting a shift towards renewable energy sources.

● National



By the end of 2019, global renewable energy capacity reached 2838 GW, making it a crucial alternative to reduce fossil fuel dependence. In Bangladesh, solar energy holds the most promise among traditional renewables. While Bangladesh has made progress in rural electrification, urban areas still face issues with low voltage supply and load-shedding. The demand for electricity is expected to rise due to population growth and economic advancements. In the fiscal year 2020–21, 67.71% of electricity was generated domestically, with natural gas being the primary source. The per capita electricity generation in 2019–20 was 426.23 KWh. However, there is still a significant population globally,

mainly in Africa and Asia, without access to electrical power. Bangladesh has been grappling with a shortage of electricity over the past decade, impacting various sectors and hindering economic growth.

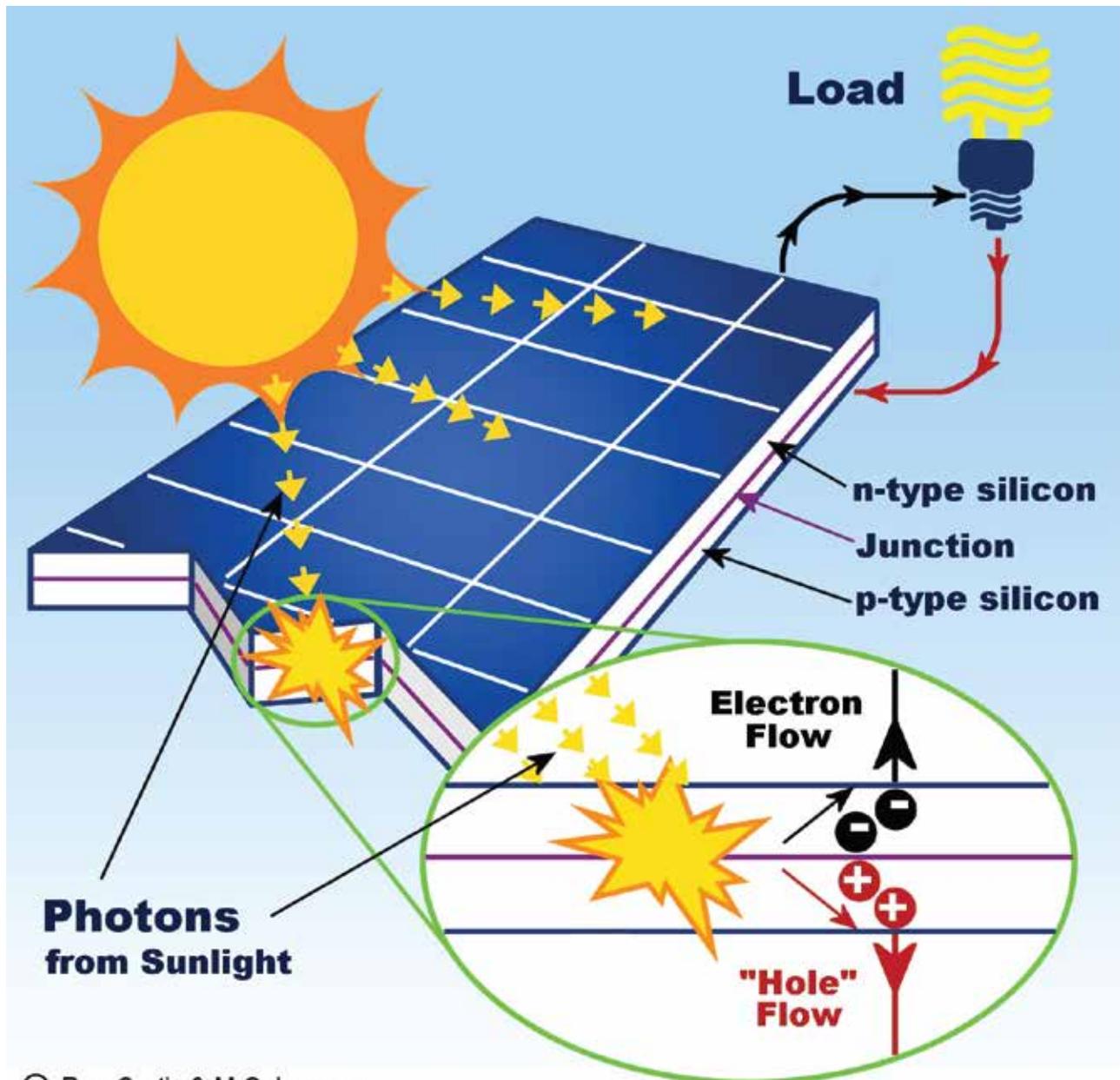
To address these energy challenges and achieve sustainable development goals, Bangladesh is actively exploring renewable energy sources, particularly solar, wind, biogas, and biomass energy. In the global context, renewable energy, especially solar power, is gaining prominence. The potential for solar energy is enormous, with the sun providing thousands of times more energy than the current global demand. The article also covers the current renewable energy scenario

globally, with modern renewable energy expected to make up 19% of global energy demand by 2040. In 2020, 25% of global electricity was produced from renewables, with solar, wind, and hydropower leading the way.

Bangladesh's Ambitious Renewable Energy Targets

In Bangladesh, the government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy, aiming to meet 5%, 10%, and 100% of total power demand through RE resources by 2015, 2020, and 2050 respectively. The country has made significant progress in solar energy, with over 6 million solar home systems benefiting rural areas. The article also delves into the geographic and photovoltaic





power potential of Bangladesh, highlighting its ideal conditions for solar energy harnessing. It discusses various forms of solar energy, including solar parks, solar rooftops, irrigation, grids, charging stations, home systems, street lights, and telecom infrastructure.

Solar Rooftop: Utilizing Available Space

Solar rooftops are simply the installation of solar panels on the roof of every residential or commercial building and are suitable in both urban and rural areas. Most of the used building's roofs are vacant either fully or partially. Solar rooftops are divided into two categories, simple "rooftop solar (except net metering)" and "net metering rooftop solar"

systems. In a "net metering rooftop solar" system, the prosumer (who produces and consumes electricity) will consume electricity first, and the excess amount is sold to neighboring consumers/the grid. Net energy metering (NEM) is a bi-directional meter that can calculate electricity in two directions, from the grid to the customer (import) and from



the customer to the grid (export). The eligible customers under NEM are classified into three categories, domestic consumers, commercial consumers, and industrial consumers. The installed capacity limits of these types of consumers are shown in Table 6. The customer's electric bill is calculated (in KWh) from the net energy recorded on the meter, i.e., the net energy consumption from the grid minus the energy provided to the grid.

Solar Irrigation: Boosting Agricultural Productivity

Bangladesh is an agro-based country, and agriculture is one of the major sectors behind the

economic growth of the country. Solar-based irrigation is cheap and more eco-friendly than conventional diesel-based irrigation systems. It enables farmers to improve crop yields and can ensure food security. In Bangladesh, approximately 6000 farmers now trust solar irrigation pumps, which are eco-friendly, greener, cleaner, and cheaper than diesel-based pumps. Already, the country has installed 2014 solar irrigation pumps, which have a combined electricity generation capacity of 44.338 MW per hour.

Solar Mini-Grids, Micro-Grids, and Pico-Grids: Extending Electricity Access

Though SHSs are successful in rural and remote areas where grid connection is not possible, the demand is more focused on grid-like quality power to run fans, fridges, small shops, small manufacturing systems, and small and medium-sized enterprises. That is why the GoB has attempted to expand solar mini-grid, micro-grid, nano-grid, and pico-grid projects that provide electricity to domestic and mini-commercial users to encourage commercial activities in remote locations. So far, 27 solar mini-grids and 2 solar nano-grids with a cumulative capacity of 5.656 MW and 0.001 MW have been installed and are currently



running, and micro-grid and pico-grid projects are planned for the future.

Solar Charging Stations: Greening Transportation

In Bangladesh, there are a lot of environmentally friendly, battery-operated, and energy-efficient three-wheelers, locally called Easy-bikes/Auto-rikshaw. Solar charging stations are an alternative to decrease the burden on grid electricity. The government has already installed 14 solar charging stations with a cumulative capacity of 0.282 MW, and more charging stations are on their way to be set up all over the country.

Solar Powered Telecom BTS: Connectivity in Remote Areas

A solar-powered telecom system is a system of providing electricity to telecommunication systems in remote areas that are far from the national grid. In Bangladesh, more than one-fourth of the rural population lives without grid electricity. Solar home systems (SHSs) are globally recognized photovoltaic systems that are used to meet the demand for electricity, especially for rural off-grid households. With a view to developing the biggest off-grid RE platform in the world, the GoB has already installed around 6 million SHSs in the off-grid zones of Bangladesh in July 2020, and

approximately 20 million rural people have benefited from these SHSs, roughly one-eighth of the total population. Solar street light is a solar-based lighting system with a view to lighting the road. These lights are independent utility grids of non-polluting environmentally friendly electricity sources for both urban as well as rural off-grid areas and hold minimum operation costs. In Bangladesh, a total of 296,061 solar street lights with a capacity of 16.7 MW have been installed by MoCHTA and MoDMR, as shown in Figure 10. Solar drinking water systems with a capacity of 0.095 MW have also been installed to provide safe

drinking water to areas with saline water intrusion.

Eco-Friendly Energy Source and Sustainability

As we know, roughly 75% of global energy is generated by the burning of fossil fuels that emit a lot of greenhouse gases, especially CO₂, into the atmosphere, leading to unsustainable developments. Most importantly, in recent times, the number of coal-based power plants in Bangladesh has dramatically increased along with other renewable energy sources. Due to the burning of coal, around 0.97 kg of CO₂ is released into the air for the generation of 1 kWh of electricity.

Economical Solar Energy System and Cost Efficiency

According to current literature, the average capital cost of a SHS (100–135 Wp) is \$150–220, while it is around \$180–250 for a larger system (200 Wp) that is considered most efficient. The average payback period for a SHS is 2.5–4 years, while the life span of a SHS is about 20 years. After that time, the cost of producing energy from SHSs is negligible, while coal and other natural resources become increasingly expensive due to their rapid depletion.

Conclusion

Bangladesh is on the path towards achieving sustainable energy security through harnessing solar power. With its abundant solar potential, strategic policies, and various solar energy projects, the country is making significant

strides towards reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating environmental impacts. The implementation of solar rooftops, irrigation systems, mini-grids, charging stations, and telecom infrastructure is not only improving energy access but also contributing to economic growth, agricultural productivity, and environmental sustainability. As Bangladesh continues its journey towards a greener and more energy-secure future, it sets a valuable example for other nations striving to achieve similar goals in the face of global energy challenges. The shift towards solar power is not just an investment in energy infrastructure, but an investment in a more sustainable and prosperous future for Bangladesh and the world.





The Rise of Niger against Neo-colonialism

Md. Anowarul Azim

Niger, a country in Western Africa, is probably getting most attention in recent world politics. Because the coup on 26 July 2023 in Niger was succeeded in the impossible, pushing Ukraine off the lips of Western leaders and off the front pages of the Western global press. Niger is now becoming the face of struggle against neo-colonialism.

Neo-colonialism purposes the systematic exploitation which outlived colonialism. It is traced back to the prospect of 'Francafrique' which was introduced by former French president Charles De Gaule. This system which was legitimized under the pretense of decolonization allowed France to exploit its former colonies while granting them symbolic sovereignty.

Niger was a French colony from 1900 to 1960. Over 60 years later, in 2023, the Nigerien economy is yet dependent on its former colonial power. The main demand of the new

Tchiani regime is to end Niger's political, economic, linguistic and military dependence on France.

Niger has numerous military defense agreements with France. French companies mine and take away 80% of Niger's uranium. More importantly, the currency of Niger, the West African CFA, is controlled by the Banque de France. The cynicism of the latter, even as France itself uses the Euro, is not lost on the Nigeriens. Niger's former president Mohamed Bazoum was backed by Paris and continued the status quo.

Many of the countries are in ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), which is allied to France and the U.S. ECOWAS has immediately threatened military action to its own member country, rather than call for diplomacy. This is exactly the position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict as well, where the West argues against diplomacy or a ceasefire. Former President Bazoum, under house arrest, even wrote an Op-Ed in the Washington Post, seeking the return to 'democracy' in Niger.





This has had no effect on Tchiani or the Nigeriens. In fact, they showed greater enthusiasm for the ouster of the French, and even if ordinary people didn't support Tchiani before, they do now. A recent telephone poll by Premise Data shows that 78% of educated Nigerien men support the coup and prefer the involvement of Russians over the French.

A very usual feature of neo-colonialism in Niger is the financial hegemony that France maintained by enforcing the CFA (African Financial Community) franc as an official currency in Niger. The CFA

franc was induced by France in most of its former colonies in West and Central Africa. According to the IMF, the CFA franc accounts for 14% of Africa's population and 12% of its GDP.

The CFA franc, which is minted by the Bank of France, was previously pegged to the French Franc, and now to the Euro. In exchange for guaranteeing their currency in Euros (currently, 656 CFA francs= 1 Euro), 50% of the CFA countries' possessions of foreign currencies are to be deposited in the Bank of France in addition to another 20% for

financial liabilities, leaving the African countries with barely any liquidity and no monetary/fiscal sovereignty on the little liquidity they have while the French government gains through capitalizing on the surplus deposits in its banks.

Through the CFA franc zone, France maintains the leverage to exercise authority over the money supply, monetary and financial regulations, banking operations, credit distribution, and fiscal as well as economic strategies of African countries. This is best summed up in a famous speech of former



French president Jacques Chirac in which he said, We forget one thing, that is, a large part of the money that is in our wallet comes precisely from the exploitation of Africa.

The ousted Bazoum regime had long been a loyal ally of France (and the West generally) in the latter's alleged war on terrorism in the Sahel region. Niger hosts 15,000 French soldiers and 1,100 American soldiers in addition to US Airbase 201 which acted as an outpost to US military interventions in the region at large. While making Niger into a safe haven for Western forces

in West Africa under the pretext of fighting terrorist groups, Bazoum long criticized Mali and Burkina Faso for coordinating with Russia and Wagner PMC in their battle against terrorism, despite being more successful than the former.

Coup leader General Abdourahamane Tchiani declared the termination of French military defense agreements and ordered French companies, mining uranium in Niger, to leave the country and the resources for the Nigeriens to manage for themselves.

The French troops stationed there were maintaining the so-called regional security. But in real sense the French troops were guarding the French companies who were extracting Nigerien resources to Paris.

Expelling the French troops will be a set back with probable consequences. France has treated Niger like a cash cow. Former Niger president Mohamed Bazoum was an ally of France. His ousting got France losing a valuable ground in West Africa region. Before Niger, several pro-Paris government was ousted in West Africa.

The coup has unconcealed three truths. The long tail of colonialism is reaching its conclusion; alternatives to the western control and command have arisen; the younger generation in developing countries have neither fear nor loyalty to the old master and nothing to lose in overthrowing the past, even though they know not their future.

The neo-colonialist model of control is replicated many former French colonies in West Africa like Niger, Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, Burkia Faso, Guinea, Gabon, Senegal. For some of their leaders, Paris is still the Centre, rather than their own capitals.

These pro-Paris West African leaders, elected or otherwise, have built themselves in the image of their colonizers, and received French support in return. The convenience of having French Franc-controlled economies means that the wealth gained during leadership positions can be transferred to France, Belgium or Canada.

This is enabled owing to lack of air connectivity within Africa but continuing colonial linkages to the former colonial country. Locals would often joke that to visit a neighboring country, their rulers went through Paris – where they could check on their

bank accounts and indulge in some fine dining.

A less discussed characteristics of neo-colonialism is Cultural and linguistic dimension. French language is imposed on many of the countries in Western and Central Africa. These countries are a member of a group called Francophone Community, which led by France. Not all members of Francophone community were French colony, but France still exploits them. DR Congo probably the best example of it.

In order to challenge French neo-colonialism, Niger has to use alternative currency of CFA Franc and remove French language's official status. Without eradicating economic and cultural influence of France it is not possible for Niger to perform as a sovereign Nation.

Clearly, the U.S.-Russia proxy war in Ukraine has pushed much of the world to take sides. Some countries in Africa see Russia as an alternative to the West. They see a direct avail from Russia's forgiving \$23 billion in African debt and sending free food grain to the region. In a spontaneous movement, the Nigeriens on the streets of Niamey and other towns have been waving the Nigerien and Russian flags for the cameras.

The repulsion of France is not new but has accelerated in the past year. Mali, which also saw a coup in May 2022, similarly demanded that the French leave their country, and waved Russian flags along with their own. Burkina Faso which also saw two military coups last year. Both Mali and Burkina Faso were suspended from ECOWAS. Both have announced support for the new dispensation in Niger.

Alternatives to the Western model, colonial or the Washington Consensus, are now available and being acceptable in Africa. These include Russia through security and resource engagements, China through its Belt and Road Initiative and extractive industries investments, investments by Gulf countries and in smaller measure by countries like Turkey.

Maybe, as the West repeatedly says, none of these African countries are stable on their own and that ruthless coup leaders will commit atrocities. Almost certainly they will and almost certainly there will be clutter. The coups may continue as outsiders enhance existing religious and fault lines, and even as French control of those economies erodes.

Historically there have been different templates for the African countries to follow. The example of democratic governance and economic development is one, and the experience of enrichment through control of its own natural resources, is another.

For now, Nigers seem willing to take a chance on their new coup leaders. Even if they are overthrown, perhaps the deluge that follows is one that will ultimately take them on a path that will free them from the neo-colonialism that they currently endure.

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Backwardness of Local Muslim culture: Confrontation of **western and Indian cultural aggression**

Monir Hossain

● Culture

Humans are basically cultured animal. In general, culture is people's way of life. It differentiates humans from the other being. As humans have the soul and mind, they explore and express their will and desire of their soul and mind through different appearances and styles. As soul and mind differs from person to person, culture also rotates as per difference and as the end it takes a shape which is unique in terms of its character- through such way culture has been developed in human history. So definitely, culture is the driving force of human life. The person will be guided according to the culture he/she follows. In sociological terms, culture is a way of thinking and of doing things as per such though that pave the way of life. Culture is of two types, i.e. tangible culture and Intangible. Intangible culture includes nonphysical ideas, values, belief systems, norms, ideals, ethics, language, organizations, and institutions. On the other hand, material culture is the physical presence of culture in objects and architecture.

Culture is mainly inherited from ancestors. Again, many cultures are created by people based on time and circumstances. But the matter is not limited to this. Not all of the culture of the people of the present age is derived from their ancestors or acquired by themselves. A large part of it is imposed.

Some philosophies such as Marxist philosophy or critical theory try to argue that culture is sometimes used as a tool by the elite to exploit the lower class or create false consciousness. Without 'Marx', it is not too difficult to understand the matter.

'Gramsci' in his theory of hegemony called culture a tool of the ruling class to achieve the consent of the masses. Culture can control people's minds or brains, rituals and daily life philosophy.

In this age of technology, the scope of culture has increased a lot. Now, the culture of different countries of the world spreads worldwide. People can be influenced by other cultures in various ways such as: through music, film, television and art. Now the expansion of the culture of various countries depends on the universality, excellence or hegemonic attitude of that culture, i.e. on the tendency to impose.

From the perspective of Bangladesh, a complex picture emerges when looking at the country's culture. There are many debates among scholars about what the culture of this country should be. If the culture is calculated according to the religion of ninety percent of the people of this country, it should be Islamic culture. But the real picture is not that. Because culture is not always ancestral or self-acquired. Culture can also be imposed through cultural hegemony. Various cultures can be imposed on the people of the society according to which direction they will be driven. Here the larger group



can also be managed by the smaller group if the reins of culture are in their hands.

Looking at the society of Bangladesh, it can be seen that there is widespread cultural aggression. The mainstream culture of this country is no longer representative of the larger part of the country. Gradually, the distance between the history and tradition with the culture of this country is increasing. Although most people are unaware of this. The culture of this country is day-by-day inspired by Hindutva and Western ideas such as liberalism and secularism. Aggressive power also continued it in the name of Bengali culture.

There are various infiltrations in Bengali culture. It has lost its individuality and identity for the cultural invasion of powerful countries including the invasion of Indian culture. Moreover, conscious Muslims may not accept the current form of Bengali culture. Muslims do not find identity within mainstream Bengali culture as there is not much similarity with their culture which has been going on for ages. A Muslim, despite being a Bengali, is swayed by his Bengaliness. Is he first a Muslim or a Bengali? Where is his own culture here? Here the aggressor forces systematically erased Islam and Muslimness from Bengali culture. As a result, if the Bengali identity is enlarged, the Muslim identity

becomes smaller. But Bengalis and Muslims were supposed to be one. For hundreds of years, Bengali Muslims could proudly display their Bengali identity but now they are facing problems.

The predominantly Muslim society of Bangladesh generally prefers Islamic culture and avoids non-Islamic culture. There is a large section who are culturally unaware. This segment prefers to follow what is popular in the country. They do not think much about where the culture before them came from or whether it is their own. The ongoing trend drives him.

A large part of the young Generation is being led this way. In the era of technology, a citizen is not only a member of Bangladesh but also a member of the global society or global village. For that, he can always reach different cultures of different societies through TV, internet, and social media. In addition, due to the cultural hegemony of Bollywood or Hollywood on the TV-Internet, he gradually started to nurture that attitude shown in the media. Then the philosophy of his life becomes as same as the cultural product he consumes. Sometimes he doesn't like the culture around him because his filter is another culture. Whatever passes that filter is acceptable to him.

As the majority of the country is Muslim, not all cultures are acceptable to them. They do

not accept all current cultures. Rather, they want to continue with their own traditional and religious culture. Islam has many cultures. Islam prefers diversity in culture. Among the basic festivals of Islam are the two Eids, Ashura, Shab-E-Meraj, Shab-E-Barat and many more. Moreover, different cultures can be created due to geographical differences.

It will be seen that the amount of non-Muslim culture is increasing day by day and has surpassed the Muslim culture in this country. But what is the reason for this? Ninety percent of this country is Muslim but their culture is shrinking day by day and their opposite culture is flourishing. As mentioned earlier culture controls man, fixes his philosophy of life and sets his goals. Now the people will be led in the direction of whoever has the reins of that culture. Unfortunately, the reins of this country's culture are not with the larger Muslim-minded generation.

Since independence, the cultural leadership in this country has not been in the hands of the Muslim-minded generation. Aggressors have established cultural hegemony. They have succeeded. Today, Valentine's Day, Thirty Fast Night, Mangal Shobhajatra, Mother's Day and numerous festivals are celebrated in this country. Muslim-minded leaders are unable to create a

new culture, even their existing culture is slowly becoming unpopular. Where there is constant free movement and infiltration of non-Islamic culture, Muslims are not able to do much and are constantly falling behind. Today, there is no Islamic culture in front of as many youths as the joy gets from going to Thirty Fast Night. The enjoyment of Idul Fitr and Idul Azha is also decreasing day by day. On the other hand, every month several days come before the young generation. It is not possible to defend

against hegemony without creating a counter-hegemony.

In today's era, a large part of people's life is in the virtual world. Muslims are extremely backward here. A group of scholars has also spent a lot of time to determine whether television, the internet, pictures and videos are halal or haram. At the same time, their rival culture has advanced rapidly. The young are busy with TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, movies, TV series, music or games. Adults are also not far from it. The Internet has also

caught up with them. In sum, people do not get enough Islamic culture even in the virtual world.

After all, one of the reasons for the decline of Muslim culture is the loss of cultural supremacy. Today people are controlled by a certain class. Muslims cannot defend their culture against an extremely aggressive culture. A young man enjoys listening to Hollywood music, but good music is absent in front of him. Boys watch TV series or movies. If you can dominate here, you can also dominate



their mind. Some Turkish serials have already started doing this. The material culture that has been created as a result of the oppression of Muslims for thousands of years is also disappearing day by day.

In this age, there is no chance to deny the internet or virtual world. Now there is no opportunity to analyze whether taking pictures is halal or haram. This virtual part of human life cannot be excluded by the fatwa. Muslims have to dominate the virtual world too if

they want to dominate the real field. A lot of quality songs, dramas, and movies should be made. If they are regarded as sins, then they have to be cultural slaves of others.

Not only the seizure of political power but also the cultural dominance of Muslims in the society is important. It can also be said that due to a lack of cultural superiority, Muslims cannot come to power. And this will be possible through moral and cultural leadership. The point is that asking people to abandon their culture without

showing them an alternative culture will not work. If we want to challenge the existing culture, we have to spread our ideology and culture at all levels of people's lives. A new culture must be created. Fundamental Islamic culture must be made more attractive and vibrant. Otherwise, cultural slavery is inevitable.

The author of this article is regularly contributes to international issues. He also regularly writes on culture, theology and so on.





Overview of the Two-Year Taliban Resurgence in Afghanistan:

The Future of Afghanistan

**Tamanna Islam &
Rashed Rasha Chowdhury**

Asia

August 15, 2023, marks the two-year anniversary of the Taliban's regaining power in Afghanistan. The Taliban are still not acknowledged by any country or international organization. Since the Taliban took power, there have been tremendous changes in the social, economic, and political landscape of Afghanistan, which took Afghanistan to the brink of destruction. Although the current situation has improved somewhat, the Taliban government has not been accepted by Afghans. Instead, they get disillusioned with the Afghans. In this article, we will be given a 2-year overview of the Taliban government, its gains and disappointments, and the future of Afghanistan.

Recognition of the International Community:

Many Western countries, including the United States, shut down their diplomatic offices in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over. They have refused to recognize and establish diplomatic ties with the Taliban government, which calls the country the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The Taliban are now under investigation by the International Criminal Court for alleged abuses of Afghan civilians, including crimes against humanity, carried out since 2003. U.S. and Afghan forces are also being investigated for alleged war crimes.

Great power politics: The US and China

USA

The Taliban regime stands firm as well in its willingness to host terrorist organizations dedicated to spreading insurgency to regional states and that aspire to launch global attacks. And an official ban notwithstanding, the current government is expected to continue its toleration of the production and trafficking of most of the global supply of heroin.

These same policies constitute the core criticism of the Taliban regime by the United States

and the international community. In their efforts to influence its behavior, nations have imposed various sanctions and bans, of which the denial of political recognition to the regime is the most prominent.

China

Following the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan, China was the first foreign country to pledge emergency humanitarian aid (worth \$31 million) to Afghanistan. China's strategy in Afghanistan is guided by its economic and security interests in Afghanistan. Beijing faces threats from certain groups it has branded as terrorist organizations, which are believed to be operating from Afghan territory. Its primary concerns are how to curb regional instability and eliminate any potential for Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for terrorist groups, especially Uyghur militants in the country.

China's economic interests in Afghanistan revolve around significant investments in the mining sector—the Mes Aynak copper mine and the oil extraction contract in the Northern provinces of Farvab and Sar-e-Pol. Post-August 2021, China's main assistance to the Taliban came in the form of humanitarian aid and the



Many Western countries, including the United States, shut down their diplomatic offices in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over.



donation of COVID-19 vaccines. On the diplomatic front, China has made efforts to rally international support and aid for rebuilding Afghanistan. Correspondingly, Beijing and Pakistan have come together to urge the Western powers to engage the Taliban and provide assistance to the country.

China reacted strongly to the humanitarian and economic crisis in Afghanistan and blamed the US for allowing the security situation to deteriorate by "hastily" withdrawing all its troops from the country and leaving behind a "mess and turmoil" for the Afghan people.

Neighbors: India and Pakistan

India

The security, economic, and humanitarian vacuum left by the withdrawal of American troops has significant implications for India's interests in Afghanistan. India has always required and worked for a relatively stable Afghanistan free from threats by terrorist groups. The Taliban have sought India's assistance in rebuilding their country, given New Delhi's growing geopolitical influence and longstanding interest in accessing Central Asian markets via Afghanistan.

Pakistan

Violence has increased along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, which has historically supported the Taliban. The Taliban's return to power has emboldened Tehrik-e-Taliban, a militant group sometimes referred to as the Pakistani Taliban. In late 2022, the group ended a cease-fire with the Pakistani government and launched attacks across the country.

Tensions between Islamabad and Kabul continue to rise. While Pakistan has made efforts to smooth over the growing rift, reopening a key border crossing at Spin

Boldak-Chaman, which was closed following cross-border gunfire that killed a Pakistani security guard on Nov. 13.

Clashes along the disputed Afghanistan-Pakistan border have been a recurring problem. Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, the frequency of such clashes has only enlarged. The Afghan Taliban's military victory in Afghanistan has had an inspirational effect on those who seek to impose sharia law in Pakistan. The Pakistani state has ample reason to be concerned about blowback from the Afghan Taliban across the Durand Line. Pakistan's practice of supporting jihadist

forces is now coming back to haunt it by stirring up religious fervor among a large section of its own population.

Taliban-Iran Relations

Iran has had intricate relations with the Taliban since the 1990s. Iran sought a positive policy toward the Taliban and ushered in communication with this group before the U.S. withdrawal. Because of recent border clashes, mismanagement of the Helmand River between two countries has escalated tensions and created a new set of Challenges for Both countries. As almost 90% of the

Helmand River passes through Afghanistan, it is a significant source of water for both sides, supports agriculture and irrigation, protects ecosystems, and minimizes environmental degradation and livelihoods. In order to construct Afghanistan's dams over the Helmand River, Tehran fears that this might abate water flow and hinder irrigation systems. In addition, there have been three major border conflicts between two countries because of Iran's Public agitation. In essence, Ineffective governance and regulations and a lack of environmental preservation policies are responsible for disputes.



Notwithstanding, Iran and the Taliban have been strategically intertwined on some key issues. Ideological differences, the prolongation of the economy, and Iran want to make Afghanistan a hub by using Afghanistan's geographic position to extend their products and economy in central Asia and with China, to ameliorate security, and to check the ISIS-K threat. In addition, Tehran acquires Afghanistan for the Conservation of Hamun Lake. Over the last few decades, Afghanistan has been ranked among the top five export destinations for Iranian goods, and it will increase by 25 percent in 2022.

The Taliban and ISIS-K Rivalry:

ISIS-K and the Taliban are not only Sunni Islamist extremist groups but also adversaries with different ideologies. They are fighting each other over parts of the country. After regaining power in Afghanistan, the Taliban and ISIS-K have escalated their assault across the country, put pressure on the new government, and raised concerns in the West that they might pose an extreme threat internationally. The principal reason behind the recent attack of ISIS-K against the Taliban was a symbolic target, including Shia Muslim minorities,

especially ethnic Hazaras. Hundreds of people were wounded and killed in the bombings in urban areas. ISIS-K invaded the Pakistani and Russian embassies between late 2022 and early 2023. ISIS-K has invaded Afghanistan on 283 occasions, killing at least 670 people and wounding 1200 per assault because they want to form a "Caliphate" throughout the Islamic world.

Law and order of the Taliban:

The Taliban returned to their rule of the late 1990s. They ordered judges to enforce their interpretation of Sharia in



November 2022. The Taliban government cannot provide substantial food and economic opportunities for its population. Because of the U.S. sanctions, the Afghan economy has compressed by 30 percent, and more than 90 percent of the population has been suffering from food insecurity, inflation, and climate risks.

The current situation in Afghanistan is somewhat good. The number of primary schools for boys and girls has increased in some areas because of improved security. The Taliban government has also managed to pay its electricity import bill, ensuring power supply even

though blackouts sometimes take place. In addition, they managed to gather some budget revenue and boost the mining industry, which assisted in creating public revenue and exports. Moreover, they imposed taxes on the illegal drug industry, like marijuana and opium.

Taliban policy towards women and minorities:

The Taliban imposes strict Sharia law on women. Some actions taken by Taliban shows the tolerance towards the women and some shows their strictness especially towards secular community comparing to their previous regime. To

some extend and imposing the specific terms and conditions they allow schooling of the girls. But such scenario is not same all over the country, we have experienced many incidents through media that many of them are not allowing the girls to go to educational institutions. They more tolerable towards the outdoor activities of women comparing to their previous regime but it's clear that they are not going to follow other Muslim countries rather they are willing to impose strict conditions on women in case of participating outdoor works. Time will say what would happen in future.





The Future of Afghanistan

As Taliban is representing a specific segment of the country; so, other community would not be happy under Taliban regime. Such communal fragmentation may accelerate the lawlessness in the country in near future. Moreover, Countries such as the US and China have stakes in the Afghan conflict, and their political rivalries would exacerbate the situation. Some

even argue that it was the involvement of great powers, such as the US and the former USSR that contributed to the long-lasting negative socio-political impacts on the lives of the Afghan people. As the Taliban celebrate the two-year anniversary of their return to power, the international community expects that they will rule justly, uphold human rights, and take preventive measures so that

Afghanistan will not again become a safe haven for terrorists. However, judging from the available information, the expectations seem to be far too high. Only the future activities of the Taliban will determine the future of the people of Afghanistan.

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Genocide in Cambodia and its impact on the World

Nurul Islam

In the 20th century, this world witnessed barbarous events. The century will be remembered for the brutal atrocities of the leaders in different regions. A Plethora of people were killed on account of either civil war or taking power. They destroyed civilization with ethnic cleansing. In most of the cases, the victims didn't get any justice nor even transitional justice. We see that in most of the cases genocides were influenced by super power of the world by using religious or anti-religious sentiment. In some cases, it was ideological clashes whilst new colonialism also caused this cleansing.

International

Here is the gross list of genocide that happened in the 20th century.

S. N.	Years of genocide	Country Name	Numbers of people killed	Who committed the Genocide
1	1915-16	Armenia	1.5 million	Ottoman empire
2	1941-45	The Holocaust	11 million	Nazi Germany
3	1941-45	Former Yugoslavia	2,25,000	
4	1965-66	Indonesia	1.2 million	Civil war Ethnic cleansing with the help of USA and West block
5	1971	Bangladesh	3 million	Pakistan Army
6	1955-75	Vietnam	3 million	Civil war with direct influence of USA and Soviet Union
7	1975	East Timor	2,00,000	Indonesia
8	1955-1972	Sudan	2 million	Civil war
9	1975-79	Cambodia	1.7 million	Khmer Rouge
10	1979-89	Afghanistan	2 million	Russia
11	1980-83	Guatemala	2,00,000	Civil war
12	1994	Rwanda	1 million	Civil war

List of Genocide in the 20th century



We see that in most of the cases genocides were influenced by super power of the world by using religious or anti-religious sentiment.

In this article, we attempt to understand the Cambodian genocide along with the causes and effects of this genocide. Genocide is a term for antihumanitarian activities. According to Raphael Lemkin (1900-59): "By 'Genocide' we mean the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group. Generally speaking, genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all members of a nation". This world has experienced such diabolical events several times. The genocide that occurred in Cambodia is one of the tragedies in history. This genocide occurred from 1971 to 1980. The target of this genocide was to reform the society as a whole. That's why, the government of Cambodia killed

people to establish communist ideology all over the country.

Causes of Genocide in Cambodia:

Between 1975 and 1979, Cambodia witnessed an explosion of mass killing and massive destruction. Nearly 1.5 to 3 million people were killed by the ruling party of Cambodia named Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge took power following the Cambodian Civil War of 1975. During four years of their brutal rule, they intended to rebuild Cambodia according to their communist ideology.

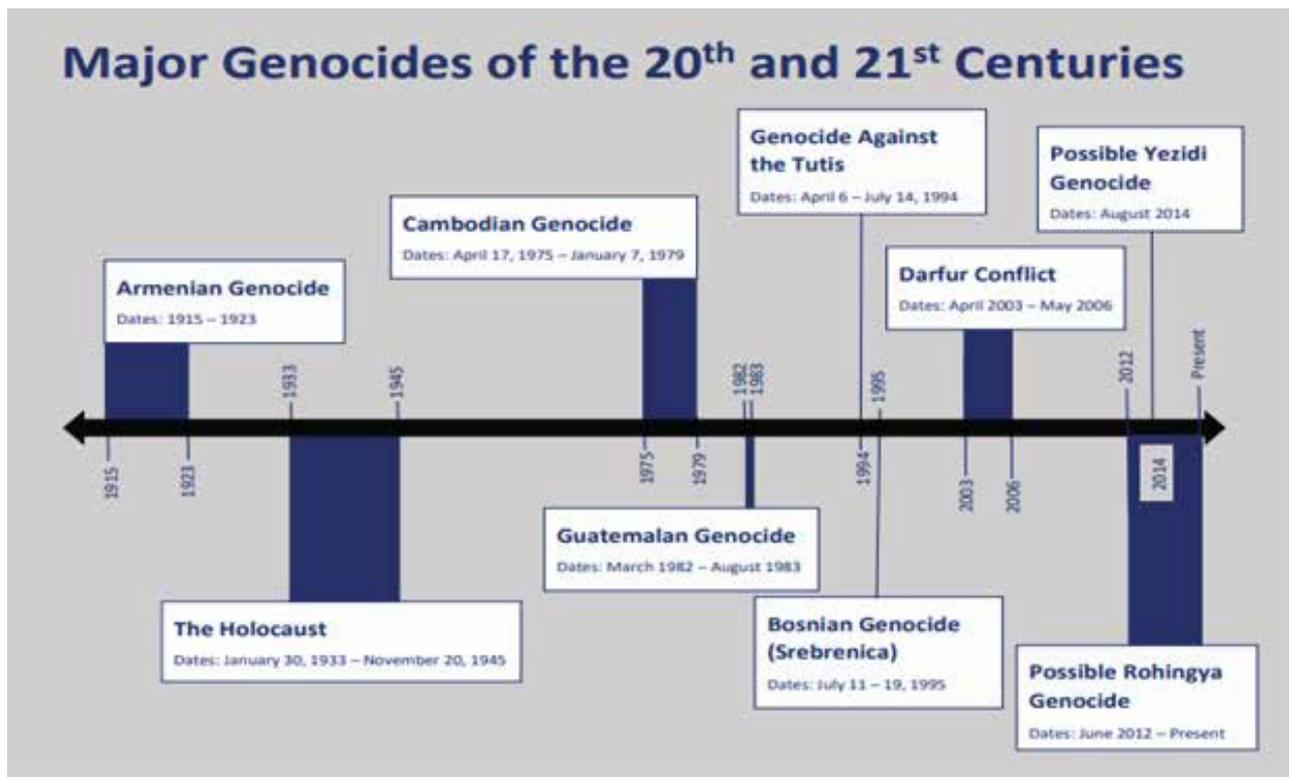
The Cambodian Genocide was ultimately the blueprint of the Khmer Rouge. Their reservation was to create a classless agrarian society. The regime ultimately collapsed when neighboring Vietnam

invaded and established an occupation that lasted more than a decade.

Cambodia before the Genocide:

In 1969, Cambodia engaged in a bloody civil war in the history of Cambodia. The war eroded the Cambodian realm and later the Cambodian Republic and its allies (United States), against the Cambodian communists. The communists received support from the neighboring Vietcong.

The Cambodian monarchy endorsed a strong sense of nationalism and allegiance to the government but was also seen as corrupt. This corruption bred several underground groups with the shared goal of overthrowing the government.





Income inequality in Cambodia was widespread. Cambodians who live in the urban areas enjoy a luxurious life but people can't take any sort of facilities who live in rural areas. This obvious division of class made Cambodia especially disposed to revolution. Ultimately, the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975 and Pol Pot became the leader of the country.

Who is Pol Pot?

Pol Pot was a dramatic character. Though he was a human being, his activities were totally like a fierce animal. Pol Pot, original name Saloth Sar. He was born on May 19, 1925, in Kompong Thom province, Cambodia. This

tyranny died on April 15, 1998, near Anlong Veng, along the Cambodia-Thailand border. Pol Pot was a Khmer political leader who led the Khmer Rouge totalitarian regime (1975–79) in Cambodia. His fundamental communist government forced the mass evacuations of cities, killed and displaced millions of people, and left a bequest of harshness and impoverishment.

The son of a landowning farmer, at age five- or six-year-old Pol Pot was sent to live with an elder brother in Phnom Penh, where he was educated in a French curriculum. An ordinary student, he failed the entrance examinations for high school

and so instead studied carpentry for a year at a technical school in Phnom Penh. In 1949 he went to Paris on a scholarship to study radio electronics. There he was involved with the communist party and joined a group of young left-wing Cambodian nationalists. In France, he spent more time on revolutionary activities than on his studies. His scholarship was cut short after he failed examinations, and he returned to Phnom Penh in 1953.

Pol Pot taught at a private school in Phnom Penh from 1956 to 1963, he left the capital because his communist ties were suspected by the police. By 1963 he had adopted his



revolutionary pseudonym, Pol Pot. He spent the next 12 years building up the Communist Party that had been organized in Cambodia in 1960, and he served as the party's secretary. An opponent of the Norodom Sihanouk government and of the military government of Gen. Lon Nol, he led the Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces in their overthrow of Lon Nol's regime in 1975.

The Cambodian Genocide

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge took power and plotted a radical restructuring of Cambodian society. They forced to exclusion of city dwellers into the countryside, where they would be compelled to work as

farmers, digging canals and tending to crops. If anyone denied their order, they would kill them. So, people became afraid and followed the order of Khmer Rouge. Educated and elite society had been considered as a foe of the country. Massive mismanagement of the economy in Cambodia led to shortages of food and medicine, and indescribable numbers of people surrendered to disease and hunger. Families were also split up. The Khmer Rouge created labor brigades, assigning groups depending on age and gender. This policy resulted in hundreds of thousands of Cambodians starving to death.

Religious and ethnic minorities faced particular oppression. Christian and Buddhist groups were targeted for suppression but about 70% of Cham Muslim groups were mostly affected by the genocide. Because the Khmer Rouge placed a heavy emphasis on the rural farmworker population, anyone who was considered an intellectual person was targeted for special action. This meant teachers, lawyers, doctors, and clergy were the targets of the management. Even people wearing glasses were the target of Pol Pot's reign of terror.

There is difficulty establishing a

definitive number of victims of the Cambodian Genocide. The Cambodians kept methodical records of prisoners and accomplishments. However, as Cambodia's enemy, Vietnam invaded and released the records, there is speculation that they could have been exaggerated.

Aftermaths of Cambodian Genocide:

The Cambodian Genocide represents a difficult period in history. This genocide is compared with Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union genocide. North Vietnam and China supported the Khmer Rouge. As a result, this world experienced the worst history in the 20th century.

In 1979, the Khmer Rouge aimed outwards to create a new Angkorian empire. This led to attacks on the newly unified Vietnam, which eventually provoked the country's army to invade Cambodia. At that time, China opposed the action by Vietnam. Because of the support from China, the Khmer Rouge regime was able to keep its seat at the UN until 1982, three years later it lost power.

The aftermaths of the Cambodian genocide:

1. About 25% of the population died due to execution, forced

labor, starvation and disease during the genocide.

2. Survivors and their descendants went through horrific psychological trauma and stress.

3. Target killing, loss of intellectuals and academicians made the Cambodians suffer from intellectual in the long run.

4. The economy of Cambodia collapsed due to the forced collectivization of agriculture.

5. Socio-cultural condition of the Cambodian people also deteriorated. In other word, a

trace of ethnic minorities was eradicated.

6. With the name of establishing equality, the brutal Khmer Rouge broke the social chain.

It's absolutely woeful that people were killed but they didn't know why they had been killed. People have no right to express their opinions. We have been undergoing till now that events like Cambodia are circumambulating in the world. But we want justice and not willing to see any extra-judicial killing in the world.





Poverty in Bangladesh: Government Policy to Alleviate It.

Md. Sazeer

Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Bangladesh government has been able to reduce the poverty rate but it has not actually reduced the number of poor people. In the past, poverty meant only lack of food and shelter. But in the modern economy social indicators such as literacy levels, lack of disease resistance due to malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare, lack of job opportunities, and lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation are also used. According to the statistical report, the poverty rate in Bangladesh after independence was about 80 percent and currently it is 18.7 percent. Comparing the 2016 and 2022 BBS reports, we can see that in 2016, the poverty rate was 24.3% and the extreme poverty rate was 12.9%. In 2022 the poverty rate was reduced to 18.7% and the extreme poverty rate to 5.6%. The poverty rate declined steadily throughout these years but the number of poor people doesn't. The number of poor people was 35 million in the 1980s decade and it is still 35 million. In reality the number can be much higher.

● National



There are so many significant reasons behind the poverty problem in Bangladesh like : Inflationary spiral, Unemployment and underemployment, High population growth, Lack of capital formation, Income inequality, Education and skill gap, Social and economic discrimination, Global Economic Factors, Political and Institutional Factors, Corruption, Interest based economic system and many more. Let's discuss some of these issues and the government's duty in detail.

Inflationary spiral problem:

The poverty rate increases due to inflation. When inflation is

high, people's purchasing power decreases a lot. But the income of poor people does not increase in comparison. Hence the poverty rate increases due to inflation. Recently, the inflation rate in Bangladesh has increased alarmingly. Currently the inflation rate in Bangladesh is 9.92% (In August, 2023). The inflation rate in 2021 and 2022 was 5.55% and 7.70%. Bangladesh government has failed to control inflation but the government has some things to do to reduce the impact of inflation on poverty.

Policies such as social safety nets and minimum wage adjustments, can mitigate the impact of inflation on poverty rates. For example, if a government raises the minimum wage to keep pace with inflation, it can help low-income workers maintain their standard of living. But no such initiative has been seen yet from the government

Unemployment and underemployment problem:

Unemployment directly affects people's income because they lose their jobs and, their source

housing and financial resources which further increase poverty more. Discrimination sometimes leads to lower wages and reduced income for marginalized individuals. In summary, discrimination creates and reinforces barriers that prevent individuals and communities from accessing resources and opportunities, ultimately leading to higher poverty rates among marginalized groups.

Discrimination can be due to many reasons. Such as: ethnic reason, religious reason, political reason, racism etc. In Bangladesh, however, the incidence of discrimination due to racism did not occur much. But there are many examples of discrimination on racial, religious and especially political grounds. Government's public awareness programs and strong administrative systems

play a role in reducing inequality. But in Bangladesh there is a lot of inequality due to weak governance and lax political practices. For example, Madrasah students face discrimination in higher education and good jobs. Not only madrasah students, tribal also face various discrimination. Thus a group falls behind and increases the poverty rate. If the government was transparent, accountable and efficient enough, the incidence of discrimination would be reduced.

Corruption is also a major cause of poverty. Corruption wastes resources, hinders development. Due to corruption, the lower class people are deprived of government facilities. Due to corruption, the wealth of the country is smuggled abroad.

Corruption reduces the employment and efficiency of a country. All these factors contribute to the increase in poverty rates. The Bangladesh government has always failed to fight corruption. Because of this, economic progress is being hindered and poverty is increasing. To ensure a lower poverty rate government must handle discrimination and corruption issues with strong hand.

Are government activities enough?

The government runs social security programs to alleviate poverty. Social security programs implemented in Bangladesh are mainly classified into 5 categories based on life cycles. The main class-based programs are: 1. Programs for children 2.



Program for Workable Citizens
 3. Pension system for the elderly
 4. Program for the disabled
 5. Minor and special programs

The government gives allowance to special people. But how much is the allowance? The amount per month of elderly allowance is 600 Taka, widow allowance is 550 Taka, and disability allowance is 750 Taka. Everyone will agree that it is impossible to eradicate poverty with such a small amount of allowance. In order to ensure the food security of the low income people, the government sells food at a lower price than the market price in the open market by subsidizing it. In the current budget, the government provides subsidies of Taka 6,766 crore in various food programs. The government program for this purpose is quite commendable but due to corruption this benefit is not reaching the right people properly. Government surveillance should be increased in this sector. The government has been running a food-for-work (KABIKHA) program to improve rural infrastructure. For this purpose, 1043 crores was allocated in the financial year 2020-21. The government has allocated 1650

crore Taka to bring the very poor people under employment. But no real reflection of this program has been seen at all. In order to provide emergency cash assistance to people during calamities, the government runs the GR scheme and VGF program for food assistance.

A very commendable initiative of the government is the stipend scheme. According to 2022 data, 1.4 million primary school students and about 4.2 lakh secondary students are covered under the stipend. This is undoubtedly a good initiative. Recently, the government has strengthened the shelter scheme for the homeless. Common people are giving half-baked houses as gifts to those who have no houses. According to government estimates, about 2,98,249 families have been given houses. But there is a big problem here. The local political leaders are grabbing the benefits of the project themselves or giving it to their own people. The government has failed to maintain transparency.

Also, the government has taken many other steps to alleviate poverty. But the steps taken by the government are not

enough. According to the government's plan "Vision 2041", growth must be inclusive to build a poverty-free country. Expenditure on agriculture and social security should be increased. In the fiscal year 2023-24, the allocation for the social security sector has been increased to Taka 1,26,272 Crore in the budget. The proposed allocation is 16.58 percent of the total budget and 2.52 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It should be ensured that the allocated budget is actually spent on the underprivileged. The backward people should not only be given financial assistance. They should be given the necessary skills development and employment opportunities to make them self-reliant. It should be ensured that the backward communities also get equal opportunities by eliminating all kinds of discrimination, and if necessary, they should be given priority. The price of daily necessities including food grains should be kept under control even with subsidies. Equitable distribution of resources should be ensured.

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A Tour to the lost Kingdom-



Sikkim

Salahuddin Shuvo

I went out on May 25th, 2 days after the fasting Eid to see snow-capped valleys, undulating mountain ranges, eternal trees, destination Sikkim. I went to Burimari Port to see the bright light of the sodium lights of Jamuna Bridge at night and the scenery of corn fields in Patgram of Lalmonirhat. On May 26th, I completed immigration at Chengrabandha port in India. The group of excited youngsters are excited to travel to another country for the first time. After a long journey of 16 hours it was evening to reach Siliguri. All stayed at Siliguri for the night to get rid of fatigue and rest. On May 27th, after the Fajr prayer, I hired a jeep to go to Gangtok with our group of 8 people. Gangtok is 110 km away from Siliguri. Shal, the car ran over Shegun's chest. Coming to Sevak, two roads split, one to Darjeeling and the other to Gangtok. On the banks of the Teesta, there are rows of monkeys sitting on the hilly road, on the branches of trees, on the small stones on the side of the road. The car was moving along the banks of Teesta. A group of monkeys is looking at someone hoping for food. The baby is hanging on the mother's stomach. It looked pretty. As we humans have destroyed the wild nature, today they have taken to the streets in the hope of food. They did not have that wild form of jealousy. It was very distressing to see the smiling monkeys. I reached Sikkim's check post Rangpo by swinging sometimes right or left on a crooked path in the forest. On entering Sikkim the picture changed. Beautiful, tidy, clean, a charming state. The beauty of Aparupa Sikkim was spreading and the sun shines on the hills far away.

Gangtok part

I reached Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, at an altitude of 5500 feet above sea level after passing hundreds of hilly villages. It's quite cold now. I was running a fan in West Bengal this May, but what a change in nature here! Wrapped in sweater and muffler. Cameras are installed at every point of Gangtok, smoking/drug consumption, littering outside is prohibited here. Anyone who does this faces huge fines and punishments. The jeep dropped us at the bus stand, from there we took a small taxi to MG Marg Market. Basically, all the tourists stay here and roam around it. One of the problems of hotels in Gangtok is that there is no water supply at all times. Some times the water supply is cut off, so the tourists have to be in trouble. We went to a hotel full time water supply with hot water. Although the distance between Siliguri and Gangtok is 110 km, it takes about 5 hours due to the hilly road. It is good to know that Gangtok is currently the capital of Sikkim state of India. The city of Gangtok is located in the eastern Himalayas. Gangtok is at the heart of Sikkim's tourism industry due to its location within the high peaks of the Himalayas and a mild temperate climate throughout the year. According to tourism department records,

as many as 5 lakh domestic travellers visited the hill state of Sikkim. Gangtok has a total area of 19.2 sq km, population (2011) of 1,00,290.

On reaching Gangtok, we all freshen up and eat at a nearby Muslim hotel. And enjoy the city of Gangtok at night. It seemed like a carbon copy of a European city. The specialty of MG Marg is that there are various shops on both sides of it with various clothes, shops, toys, cosmetics, food, accessories, beautiful flower trees in the middle of the road and benches for sitting on both sides. MG means Mahatma Gandhi and Marg means road. No cars move on this road. This road is for pedestrians.

Interestingly, the people here do not like Indira Gandhi of the Congress party who recaptured this Sikkim, many of them like Modi of the BJP. Because, the Modi government has digitalized their province a lot, giving homes to the homeless among the locals. Pays huge amount of money to do. It also provides various facilities to the people there. Entry to North Sikkim and East Sikkim requires permission from the Sikkim Government. Not applicable for South and West Sikkim. Another very important thing is to contact the tourist agency to get the tour package to go to those two places. Also they do not allow entry.

On the day we arrived in Gangtok, we talked to the travel agency and took a tour package for Lachung and Yamthang Valley. Everything in the package - 4 meals, 1 night hotel, 5-6 view points, jeep to Yamthang Valley. 0 point is out of the package, if the environment is favourable then permission to go is available. In our group of 8 people with package 0 point deal is done for 19-20 thousand taka. We give our passport, visa photocopy, photo to the agencies for permission. They will take care of all the permission.ck darkness of the winding mountain road

Breath-taking in Lachung

We reached Lachung on 28th may around 8 pm. Lachung is a charming hamlet in Sikkim. Lachung is a famous travel destination in India and also locally called as Queen of Northeast. People who visit Lachung will fall in love with the place for its tranquil and scenic beauty of the village. The village offers a spectacular and breath-taking view of which are picture-perfect. It's feeling very cold here. We couldn't see the temperature because the network wasn't working properly. A local said it would be 4 degrees, it could drop to -5 degrees late at night. We Bangladeshis were very surprised to hear this and also

happy to think that we can live in this winter for the first time.

After eating at night, the locals burn wood and unused items and make a fire and sing. Although we do not understand the language of their songs. Besides singing they are drinking light liquor and beer. We Bangladeshis were very shocked to see this. Almost every shop in Lachung has a separate place to drink liquor and beer. Like we sit in the tong shop and eat tea-coffee, singgara, puri. They also eat liquor-beer, momo, maggi noodles. One thing I noticed in Gangtok and Lachung is that the

girls here are hardworking, strong, pillars of the world. Basically girls do all the work. Manages the store, does business, provides services as per the demand of the buyers and behaves very well. After drinking coffee, we all fell asleep around 12 o'clock in the night. We did not feel cold at night because of heavy blankets. However, we could not walk in the room without shoes and it was very difficult to use water because it was very cold.

May 29 woke up very early in the morning. Waking up fresh and laying down a towel, the Fajr prayer was very soothing. I

felt happy thinking that I could pray at 9600 feet above the sea level. When I opened the window of the room, I was completely amazed. The sun was touching the top of the hill. The mountain peaks are filled with silvery light above the white snow. On one side is a mountain covered with snow and on the other side is a mountain without snow. My eyes widened.

I eat bread and jam for breakfast. Everyone wears hand socks, foot socks, big rubber shoes rented for 70 rupees and heavy winter clothes. Because the winter is more severe where I am going.



Yumthang and Zero point part

Yumthang Valley offers a magnificent view of Himalayan flowers, twenty-four species. The valley will amaze you with its massive structure. Arrived at Yumthang Valley. On both banks of the Lachung River, there are rows of rows of simple trees. We were somewhat deprived of the scenic view of the flowers the time we visited. The actual flower fair starts later in May. The driver said, both banks of this river are filled with flowers of different colors. A fair of purple *Grimulus* is held on both banks of the river. Flowers of various colours burst from the ground. The locals call it Hayden valley - or Heavenly Garden. Colourful Buddhist flags tied to the ground with bamboo sticks. Flying in the wind. Religious information, advice summary written on colour flags. White flags are for the dead. Buddhists believe that as the flag sways in the wind, their souls will find peace. Therefore, the flags are placed in open spaces where the wind blows. It hasn't snowed here yet. In December, January this valley is covered with snow. Different forms in different seasons are a wonderful addition to this valley. A stormy wind was blowing. Hands and feet are freezing in the cold. The body writhes in pain from an unimaginable cold. Light a little fire and make a fire with the

Tibetans in the small tea stall. It is a strange experience. Now this Yumthang valley is shaking. Leafless *dendrobium* fragrant corms and petals - pink to pale purple. 24 varieties of rhododendron are available. Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary. A densely muted colour wave of strewn purple primroses. Far away the stillness of the mountain forest. Sighs touch the wild valley. We did see some purple flowers though. This valley is an amazing natural wonder. Now coming back from Yumthang. But what if we don't see that another heavenly place is waiting on top of it? ZERO POINTS!!! The driver said, "If you want to take it there, you will need an extra 3500 rupees. But this is out of the package. We all agreed. We went. Anyone come so close and go back?"

The journey starts from Yumesamdong/ Zero Point at an altitude of 15,300 feet. We reached the military check post. When the driver showed the documents, I got the permit. As the car started to climb higher, the vegetation decreased. Gradually snow is scattered here and there on Nera hill. The grass is dry in some places and very dry in some places a little touch of green remains. It seemed as if they were making a last ditch effort to survive. Oxygen is starting to decrease. The driver said drink more water. As the day progresses

from the top of the big mountain, the snow melts quietly at the foot of the mountain. It seems that the silent cry of the mountain is trickling down the feet. 15,300 feet height – standing on China border. The Himalayan Range – where the B R O road stops. The car stopped in a row of cars. Tourists are happily walking here and there. In the face and eyes, a wave of open dam broke.

I am looking with astonished eyes only snow around, no raw part of frozen ground is seen. Somewhere one or two rocks are trying to break through the ice. This is an indescribable ice fantasy. Fascinated by form, dissolved in joy. Snow-capped mountains being kissed by floating clouds increase our excitement to reach Zero. I also encounter a large number of yaks grazing in pristine grasslands on way. As I approach Zero Point, I may start feeling a bit nauseated but the floating clouds by car window will change my mood. And finally, I reached at the Zero Point.

Thirteen to fifty-year-old man and women are on the cusp of youth. Some are taking pictures, some are throwing deals at their partners with ice, and some are making ice dolls. This is not a village fair or a bazaar or a picture of a market like Calcutta - this is an ice rink in an icy valley. Nature is giving



its form to the heart and giving it a natural look! We want to climb to the top of the mountain and enjoy a little more. I was panting while going up the mountain of snow, so I took a break and went up quite a bit. When I got up, the environment was completely silent, there was no sound, only the sound of the wind. I was looking at the surrounding mountains from the top of the hill. I enjoyed this great blessing of Allah with full heart and thanked the owner.

Now time to return, go to Lachung and have lunch at 3 pm. The food was very bad. Due to the up and down in such a short time on the winding mountain road, many have become quite weak and sick due to the weather not matching the body. Many are suffering from vomiting and

headache. For this reason, it is very important to keep emergency medicine with chira, muri, jaggery. The car began to move, taking one last look at the distant mountain peaks of Lachung blending into the blue sky. Fresh wind, light rain, seeing the waterfall and the longing to return to Gangtok made the mind go wild. On 29th May again I left Gangtok at night and went to Siliguri in the morning on 30th May. I stayed at Siliguri at night. On April 1, after completing the immigration of India, I felt a sense of peace and tranquility in my heart as soon as I stepped on the soil of Bangladesh. We arrived in Dhaka by train as it was evening to enter Bangladesh. We arrived in Dhaka at 10 am on April 2. From Sikkim I have learned the importance of

Geopolitics, the idea of developing hilly areas, ensuring the safety of tourist areas, and smart export policies to keep the economy strong.

It is very difficult to write down everything about the total 8-day itinerary here. I have written as much as I felt necessary. If I have given any wrong information, please let me know. Thank you very much to my parents and especially my friend Abdullah Abid for staying with me and helping me. And prayers to all the members in our group. Finally, thanks to Almighty God for giving us the opportunity to see and understand the people, environment, history, struggles and scenes of Sikkim.

The writer is a student of East West University