



YEARS OF BANGLADESH

RETROSPECT & PROSPECT

6-9 DECEMBER 2021

A FOUR DAY VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

ORGANISED BY



CO-SPONSORED BY



**SOUTH ASIA
PROGRAM**
Cornell University

CONTEXT

To celebrate the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) is organizing a virtual international conference, co-sponsored by the South Asia Program of Cornell University, which will explore the country's developments in different sectors—politics, economy, society and culture. A number of national and international webinars have already been organized this year on Bangladesh. They have portrayed the remarkable story of Bangladesh's development—how it has succeeded in rebuilding a war-ravaged economy and society and made steady progress in key indicators of human development and economic growth.

However, the story of Bangladesh's progress is generally being told from a quantitative perspective, for example, the upward or downward trends in life expectancy, mortality, fertility, school enrolment, labor force participation, poverty reduction, export earnings, foreign exchange reserve, GDP, etc. The numbers do indicate significant gains in social and economic development, but they do not adequately capture the depth of the changes that have taken place in peoples' lives in the economy, politics, society and culture of Bangladesh.

The CPD conference aims to deepen our understanding of Bangladesh's multifaceted development over the last fifty years. The event will draw upon specially commissioned papers, covering a broad spectrum of issues addressing the qualitative dimensions of development and change as well as explore the processes which have produced these changes. The proceedings of the conference are expected to be published.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Theme 1: State, Society, Politics

Theme 2: Bangladesh's Economic Transformation

Theme 3: Towards a Just Society

Theme 4: Social Transitions

Theme 5: Culture

Theme 6: Costs and Challenges of Development

Theme 7: Bangladesh in a Changing World Order

Monday 6 December 2021

Time: 06:00 pm - 07:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 1: Inaugural Session and Keynote Presentation

Chair

Professor Rounaq Jahan

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

Welcome Address

Dr Fahmida Khatun

Executive Director, CPD

Professor Iftikhar Dadi

Director, South Asia Program,
Cornell University

Introduction to the Conference

Professor Rounaq Jahan

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

Keynote Presentation

Professor Rehman Sobhan

Chairman, CPD

Q&A Session

Sum up

Professor Rounaq Jahan

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

Monday 6 December 2021

Time: 08:00 pm - 09:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 2: State, Society, Politics

Chair

Dr Ahrar Ahmad

Director General, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq
Foundation (GARF)

Paper 1

**Evolution of State-Society Relations in
Bangladesh: An Analytical Narrative**

Presenter: Dr Mirza M Hassan

Senior Research Fellow, BRAC Institute of Governance
and Development (BIGD), BRAC University

Discussant: Professor Naomi Hossain

Research Professor, Accountability Research Center,
American University

Paper 2

Islamist Politics in Bangladesh:

The Nature, Scope and the Pathway

Presenter: Professor Ali Riaz

Distinguished Professor, Department of Politics
and Government, Illinois State University

Discussant: Professor Habibul Haque Khondker

Professor, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Paper 3

**State-making, Violence, and Political Muscle:
Bangladesh as Polycratic State**

Presenter: Professor Arild Engelsen Ruud

Professor, South Asia Studies, University of Oslo

Discussant: Dr Philip K. Oldenburg

Adjunct Associate Professor,
Department of Political Science,
Columbia University

Q&A Session

Response from the paper presenters

Sum up

Dr Ahrar Ahmad

Director General, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq
Foundation (GARF)

Tuesday 7 December 2021

Time: 06:00 pm - 07:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 3: Bangladesh's Economic Transformation

- Chair** **Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud**
Chairman, Economic Research Group (ERG)
- Paper 1** **Synergies and Tipping Points: Policy Actions, Market Responses and Economic Growth in Bangladesh**
Presenter: Dr Syed Akhter Mahmood
Former Lead Private Sector Specialist, World Bank
Discussant: Dr Khan Ahmed Sayeed Murshid
Former Director General, BIDS
- Paper 2** **Bangladesh Transitioning to a Sustainable Post-Graduation Future**
Presenter: Professor Mustafizur Rahman
Distinguished Fellow, CPD
Discussant: Dr Nazneen Ahmad
Country Economist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Paper 3** **Institutional Challenges**
Presenter: Professor Selim Raihan
Professor, Department of Economics, Dhaka University & Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM)
Discussant: Dr Ahsan Mansur
Executive Director, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh

Q&A Session

Response from the paper presenters

Sum up

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud
Chairman, Economic Research Group (ERG)

Tuesday 7 December 2021

Time: 08:00 pm - 09:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 4: Towards a Just Society

- Chair** **Professor Geof Wood**
Emeritus Professor, International Development, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
- Paper 1** **Poverty Trends and Dynamics**
Presenter: Dr Binayak Sen
Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)
Discussant: Professor S.R. Osmani
Professor, Developmental Economics, Ulster University
- Paper 2** **Responding to the Challenges of Inequality**
Presenter: Professor M.M. Akash
Professor & Chairman, Department of Economics, Dhaka University
Discussant: Professor S.R. Osmani
Professor, Developmental Economics, Ulster University
- Paper 3** **Towards a Just Governance**
Presenter: Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman
Founder-Chair, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)
Discussant: Dr Iftekharuzzaman
Executive Director, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

Q&A Session

Response from the paper presenters

Sum up

Professor Geof Wood
Emeritus Professor, International Development, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Time: 06:00 pm - 07:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 5: Social Transitions

- Chair** **Professor Bina Agarwal**
Professor, Development Economics and Environment,
Global Development Institute, University of Manchester
- Paper 1** **Human Development and Social Change**
Presenter: Dr Selim Jahan
Former Director, Human Development Report Office, UNDP
Discussant: Dr Sabina Alkire
Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development
Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford
- Paper 2** **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**
Presenter: Dr Sohela Nazneen
Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (IDS),
University of Sussex
Discussant: Professor Elora Shehabuddin
Professor, Transnational Asian Studies, Rice University
- Paper 3** **Civic Activism: CSO/CBO/NGO**
Presenter: Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya
Distinguished Fellow, CPD
Discussant: Professor David Lewis
Professor, Anthropology and Development,
Department of International Development,
The London School of Economics and Political Science
- Q&A Session**
Response from the paper presenters
- Sum up** **Professor Bina Agarwal**
Professor, Development Economics and Environment,
Global Development Institute, University of Manchester

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Time: 08:00 pm - 09:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 6: Culture

- Chair** **Professor Iftikhar Dadi**
Director, South Asia Program, Cornell University
- Paper 1** **Shahbagh, Shapla Chottor and Bangladesh's Meandering, Contending Mindscapes**
Presenter: Professor Fakrul Alam
Professor & Director, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Research
Institute for Peace and Liberty, Dhaka University
- Paper 2** **The Changing Faces of Culture: Notes from a Time of Crisis**
Presenter: Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam
Professor, English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts
Bangladesh & Former Professor, Dhaka University
Discussant: Dr Azfar Hussain
Interim Director, Graduate Program in Social Innovation &
Associate Professor, Integrative, Religious, and Intercultural
Studies (IRIS) Department, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary
Studies, Grand Valley State University
- Paper 3** **Changes in the Architectural, Urban and Settlement Landscapes of Bangladesh**
Presenter: Professor Kazi Khaleed Ashraf
Director General, Bengal Institute for Architecture,
Landscapes and Settlements
Discussant: Professor Adnan Z. Morshed
Professor, School of Architecture and Planning,
The Catholic University of America

Paper 4

**Contemporary Art Movements in Bangladesh:
The Rise and Crossover**

Presenter: Tanzim Wahab

Chief Curator, Arts Program, Bengal Foundation

Q&A Session

Response from the paper presenters

Sum up

Professor Iftikhar Dadi

Director, South Asia Program, Cornell University

Thursday 9 December 2021

Time: 06:00 pm - 07:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 7: Costs and Challenges of Development

Chair

Dr Fahmida Khatun

Executive Director, CPD

Paper 1

**Bangladesh between World System and Green
Growth: Past Trends and Future Trajectories**

Presenter: Dr Iftekhar Iqbal

Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Discussant: Dr Md. Golam Rabbani

Head, Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat, BRAC

Paper 2

**Fifty Years of Development Experience of
Bangladesh: An Employment and Labour Perspective**

Presenter: Dr Rizwanul Islam

Former Special Adviser, Employment Sector,
International Labour Office, Geneva

Discussant: Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem

Research Director, CPD

Paper 3

Responding to Changing Geo-politics

Presenter: Professor Imtiaz Ahmad

Professor, Department of International Relations,
Dhaka University

Discussant: Dr Sreeradha Datta

Centre Head, Neighbourhood Studies and Senior Fellow,
Vivekananda International Foundation, India

Q&A Session

Response from the paper presenters

Sum up

Dr Fahmida Khatun

Executive Director, CPD

Thursday 9 December 2021

Time: 08:00 pm - 09:45 pm Bangladesh Time (GMT+6)

Panel 8: Bangladesh in a Changing World Order

Chair

Professor Rehman Sobhan

Chairman, CPD

Message

Professor Nurul Islam

Research Fellow Emeritus, International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI) & Former Deputy Chairman,
Bangladesh Planning Commission

Panellists

Professor Rounaq Jahan

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

Professor Naila Kabeer

Professor, Gender and Development,
Department of Gender Studies, The London School of
Economic and Political Science

Dr S. Nazrul Islam

Chief of Development Research Branch, United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Professor Saleemul Huq
Director, International Centre for Climate Change
and Development (ICCCAD) &
Professor, Department of Environmental Science,
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Open Session

Vote of Thanks **Dr Fahmida Khatun**
Executive Director, CPD
Professor Iftikhar Dadi
Director, South Asia Program,
Cornell University

Sum Up **Professor Rehman Sobhan**
Chairman, CPD

Conference Steering Committee

Chair **Professor Rounaq Jahan**
Distinguished Fellow, CPD

Member **Professor Rehman Sobhan**
Chairman, CPD

Member **Dr Fahmida Khatun**
Executive Director, CPD

Member **Professor Iftikhar Dadi**
Director, South Asia Program,
Cornell University

Member **Dr Daniel Bass**
Program Manager,
South Asia Program, Cornell University

Member **Avra Bhattacharjee**
Joint Director,
Dialogue and Outreach, CPD

For Registration

www.bd50.cpd.org.bd/registration/

Conference Secretariat

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