

About the book

Bangladesh Foreign Policy:

Realities, Priorities and Challenges

By *Harun ur Rashid,*

Barrister-at-Law (Lincoln's Inn, London)

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E-mail appl@dhaka.net Telephone: 812 5394

The above titled book has just been released by the publisher and fills in a vacuum in area of English-language books on foreign policy of the country for readers.

Former Ambassador Harun ur Rashid provides an illuminating analysis of Bangladesh foreign policy. As one of the former senior most officials in Bangladesh Foreign Office, he brings his experience and expertise to present his views on setting, themes and arenas of foreign policy.

The author argues Bangladesh has limited range of options in foreign policy. He defines national interests rigorously in the context of a new set of realities, recognizes what is and what is not achievable for Bangladesh and sets priorities and challenges accordingly.

The book provides an account that reveals the shape and direction of Bangladesh foreign policy. It also makes a statement where Bangladesh is going and why.

The book contains 13 chapters and is divided into three Parts, each part consisting of several chapters.

Part I deals with ingredients of foreign policy, strengths and weaknesses of Bangladesh, domestic and external pressures on foreign policy and the main actors in shaping the contours of policy.

Part II discusses bilateral relations with 34 key countries and lays out future directions. The chapter dealing with India and Pakistan appear to be very interesting. The author describes the principal bottlenecks in bilateral relations and lists the actions for improving relations with these countries.

Part III enumerates Bangladesh's role in inter-governmental organizations such as the UN, SAARC, Commonwealth and Non-Aligned Movement. It also gives a brief account of security, economic and social issues that Bangladesh may likely to face at the 21st century.

Although Bangladesh Foreign Policy, covering 34 years, cannot be compressed in a book of this size of 379 pages, the book narrates the different phases of policy under successive governments. The author argues that the substance or core of the policy reveals continuity and transformation.

The book will be useful tool for teachers and students of international relations, political science and history, journalists, diplomats and general readers who are interested in the study of Bangladesh foreign policy.

Harun ur Rashid served as Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal (1981-82) Australia (1982-84), Philippines (1984-86) and Permanent Representative /Ambassador to the UN, Geneva (1987-91), besides holding very senior positions in the Foreign Office.

Mr. Rashid continues to write extensively on various aspects of national, regional and global issues for English- language newspapers and newsweeklies in Bangladesh.. He wrote several books on international and regional affairs.