

**International Conference on**  
**40** Years of Bangladesh:  
**Retrospect and Future Prospects**

**26-28 November, 2011**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

**Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University in collaboration with  
Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath**

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**40** **Years of Bangladesh:**  
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CDS, University of Bath**

**40 Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Future Prospects**  
**IGS, BRAC University in collaboration with CDS,**  
**University of Bath**

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## Conference Theme:

In celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh, we focus on the relative successes and shortcomings of governance within the country, a core problem that affects meaningful development of Bangladesh, and look forward to future prospects of governance reform in the country.

Over the last two decades the issue of governance reform is very much at the centre of debates on development, economic growth and poverty reduction. However, much of the thinking on what good governance should be is based on Western ideal-typical models and pays less attention to local, social, political and cultural dynamics, as well as specific historical trajectories which fundamentally shape the possibilities for development and democracy. While focusing on the wider phenomenon that characterize governance practice in Bangladesh, much of the scholarship has not reached deep enough into the social structures of everyday life of ordinary citizens and political behaviour that underpin these general features.

The conference encourages research which attempts to break away from some of the existing rhetoric that has begun to shape governance thinking on Bangladesh by offering deeper, richer and empirically grounded insights on the practice of governance, its challenges and the prospects for reform.

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## Abul Maala Tanvir Hossain

**Abstract:** Lack of effective governance presents the key challenges in implementing development programs in Bangladesh. Governance problems are evident in social safety net (SSN) programs in the form of leakages and corruption. Often, corrupt practices are manifested through: (i) politicization of beneficiary selection; (ii) misappropriation of government allocation; and (iii) lack of transparency of the bureaucratic hierarchy. In general, examination of the design and implementation of these programs reveal that bureaucracy plays the pivotal role, while local government is involved only during the service delivery phase. In this paper, it is argued that greater civic engagement is likely to alleviate the issues mentioned above by enhancing transparency and accountability.



**Bionote:** Abul Maala Tanvir Hossain is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University. He has accomplished PhD in Economics from University of Wyoming, USA. He has won the best 1<sup>st</sup> year PhD Student Award, the International Students' Scholarship Award and William E. Morgan Scholarship. His significant publications are:

*Hussain, A.M. Tanvir, and J. Tschirhart. 2011. "Economic/Ecological Tradeoffs among Ecosystems, Services and Biodiversity Conservation."*

*Under Review at Ecological Economics Hussain, A.M. Tanvir, and J. Tschirhart. 2010. "Optimal Harvesting when Harvesting Success is Uncertain." American Journal of Agricultural Economics 92(1):125-140*

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## Akhlaque Haque

**Abstract:** Some three decades ago Todd La Porte writing about technological assessment in public administration (La Porte, *PAR*, 1971) warned that technological optimism will force institutions to compromise political values for the sake of expediency and false sense of technical supremacy. He argued public organizations will be increasingly influenced by technological solutions to institutional problems without regard to “enhancement of life opportunities for those with in and outside the organization.” He called public administrators towards a “sharper sense of social purpose” by assessing technology as a “social system” where reciprocal relationship between technology and social institutions is much more recognized.



**Bionote:** Akhlaque Haque is an Associate Professor in Masters of Public Administration Program, Department of Government at the University of Alabama. Akhlaque Haque is also an Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Epidemiology and Sociology and a Research Scientist at Sparkman Center for Global Health, Center for Environmental Health and Laboratory for Global Health Observation. He has accomplished Ph.D. in Urban & Public Affairs from Cleveland State University, Masters in Economics from Cleveland State University and Bachelor's of Social Science in Economics from University of Dhaka. Akhlaque Haque has received awards as a Fulbright Scholar from International Exchange of Scholar Program from the US Department of State, Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award from School of Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Marshall Dimock Award, Doctoral Research Fellowship, College of Urban Affairs from Cleveland State University and Outstanding Student Scholarship Award from University Grants Commission from University of Dhaka. Some of his significant publications are:

*Haque, A. and K. Lal (2010 (forthcoming)). Facilitation of Civic Engagement and Citizen Trust: Web 2.0 in Government. Citizen 2.0:*

*Public and Governmental Interaction through Web 2.0 Technologies. Maria J. D'Agostino (Editor), IGI, Publishers. 2. Haque, A. and K. Lal (2010 (forthcoming)).*

*Public Information Technology and E-Governance: Managing the Virtual State. M. Brown and G. D. Garson. MA: Boston, Jones and Bartlett Inc.*

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## Arif Mahamud

**Abstract:** The central political trend in democratic developing countries is to strengthen the local government and thus creating an economic stimulus. Bangladesh, being a developing country with high poverty rate followed by major illiterate and/or semiliterate citizen, is severely facing the awareness lacking of citizen's basic rights and liabilities. The local government (Union Parishads) is solely responsible for ensuring the marginal peoples' rights but practically the issues related with 'social protection and social safety net' schemes are not functioning adequately due to corruption and irregularities, inadequate finance, non-cooperation from members, lack of training of Union Parishads (UPs) functionaries, lack of technical staff and absence of coordination, etc. This paper focuses on the evaluation of governance practices and its performances in three Upazilas namely Batiagha, Rupsha and Fakirhat in delivering some selected basic services. Both questionnaire survey and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) were adopted along with quantitative and qualitative assessment of 'social safety net' schemes through multi-stage cluster sampling and scoring index. Still Bangladesh experiences the 'top-down' approach for local government decision-making. Eventually, in most of the cases these UPs often struggle with financial resource, human resource, people's participation, power relations and functions. Lack of transparency, accountability and responsibility at the local government level cause the local people deprived of the services promised by UPs.



**Bionote:** Arif Mahamud is a Project Coordinator at Jagrata Juba Shangha. He has previous working experiences as a Monitoring & Documentation Officer at Jagrata Juba Shangha, Project Organizer at Environment Council, Bangladesh Programme Officer at BRIDGE and Research Assistant at BRAC. He has done his Masters in Development Studies, School of Social Science, Khulna University and Bachelor's in Rural and Urban Planning from Khulna University.

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## Asif Mohammad Shahan

**Abstract :** Bangladesh is the country most likely to experience severe problems because of its vulnerability to climate change (Roy et. El, 2011, Harmeling, 2010). In some ways it has and is responding well to these challenges through the production of the “Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan” and the international role it is playing in promoting climate change mitigation and demanding resources for adaptation. However, the focus of policy and action in Bangladesh is on food security and adapting to climate change in rural areas; research, policy and action on adaptation in urban areas, and particularly for low-income settlements and poor people, has been neglected (Banks, Roy and Hulme).



**Bionote:** Asif Mohammad Shahan is a lecturer at the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka. He was previously a Research Associate at the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University. He has done his Masters in Public Administration from George Mason University, USA, and Masters & Bachelors in Public Administration from University of Dhaka. He has been awarded Fullbright Fellowship, Dean's Award for academic excellence and Mohammad Mofazzalul Haq Memorial Gold Medal for academic excellence at the 43rd convocation in Dhaka University. Some of his significant publications are :

*'Politics- Bureaucracy Relationship in Bangladesh : Conséquences for the Public Service Commission',*

*Public Organization Review: A Global Journal, Vol. 8 Issue 4, pp. 307-328,*

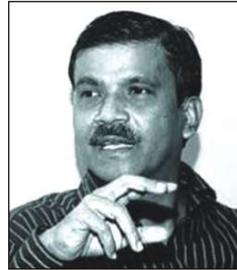
*' Casting aside the Invisibilty Cloak : Political Participation of Women in Bangladesh', Critical Half, Vol.6, Number 1, pp 36-41,*

*'The Vicious Cycle of Administrative Politicization in Bangladesh', Journal of Bangladesh Studies. Vol. 10 Issue 2*

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## Asif Nazrul

**Abstract:** This study questions the independence of the higher judiciary of Bangladesh by evaluating its formal and informal aspects and makes informed recommendations for strengthening its effective independence. It merits special attention given the role of higher judiciary in ensuring administration of justice, strengthening constitutional order and sustaining democracy. This study is based on critical and comparative analyses of the legal instruments of Bangladesh and the relevant regional or global documents to assess the adequacy of the standards and principles of independence of judiciary in Bangladesh.



**Bionote:** Asif Nazrul is a Professor, Department of Law, Dhaka University. He is a Commonwealth Research Fellow at the University of London, CDG Fellow at IUCN Environmental Law Center, Germany. He has accomplished his PhD from University of London and LL.M. & LL.B from University of Dhaka. He has previously acted as a Consultant at Consultant Millenium Partners, USA, a Research Project sponsored by USAID, Wateraid, Actionaid, UNDP and Asian Development Bank. His significant publications are:

*“Public Interest Litigation and the Role of Media”, in Ain o Salish Kendra,*

*Public Interest Litigation*, Dhaka, 2003, pp. 40-49. “ISO 14001, Legal Challenges for Developing Countries”, in IUCN-ELC,

*Environmental Law in Developing Countries - Selected Issues*, Bonn, 2002, 15-38.

*“Dams and their Impact, The International Legal Aspects”, The Dhaka University Studies, Part - F, Vol. 13, No.1, 2002, 119-130.*

*“Equitable Sharing of the Ganges under the agreements between Bangladesh and India” The Dhaka University Studies, Part - F, Vol. 12, No.1, 2001, 57-82.*

*Right to Healthy Environment: Legal Efforts in Bangladesh,” The Dhaka University Studies, Part F, Vol-4, No.1, 1993, 85-10*

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## Asif Saleh

**Abstract:** Bangladesh's media scene has seen an astounding change in the past decade. While on the one hand, the media is influencing public opinion greatly, on the other hand, the media ownership is increasingly dominated by businessmen, politicians and various interest groups. At the same time, there has been a huge rise in citizen's media and blogs. Even though the outreach of internet is somehow limited now, the emergence of this citizen's journalism and the impending expansion of internet connectivity through out the country presents a big opportunity in the coming days with respect to alternative independent media sector. The paper will evaluate the political impact of the growth of the mainstream and alternative mass media in Bangladesh. Based on the configuration of the media landscape and relevant trends, the paper will explore ownership and control of media, use of media by political parties, public perception of media as unbiased source of information, the emergence of 'new' media as an important factor in the area of democratic governance. The paper will focus its analysis on how changes in the production and consumption of mass media have affected political culture and the way political parties mobilize for politics and elections.



**Bionote:** Asif Saleh is the Director of BRAC and Chairman of Drishtipat. He is a regular contributor at Drishtipat Writer's Column. He was also the Managing Director of Driven Partnership, Executive Director of Goldman Sachs in New York & London, co-founder of PAB, Policy Specialist to Prime Minister's Office funded by UNDP and facilitated various ICT initiatives for development sector and has worked at Glaxo Wellcome, Nor Tel and IBM. Asif Saleh has completed his Masters in Marketing & Management from New York, University-Leonard N. Stern School of Business, and Bachelors in Computer Science from North Carolina University, USA.

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## A.Z.M Manzoor Rashid

**Abstract:** Good governance in natural resource management (NRM) is one of the most crucial issues in tropical developing countries that is often inappropriately embedded in national policies and political agendas. It is, in fact, even more important for countries like Bangladesh with exceptionally high pressure and dependence on its natural resources for sustaining rural livelihoods. Globally, nowadays, good governance is considered as one of the key factors for achieving the goal of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Bangladesh, of late has responded to that global zeal by involving local communities in the management of the country's declining forest and other natural resources. The colonial legacy of the forestry sector of Bangladesh was planned and managed as interim projects through donors' prescriptions.



**Bionote:** Manzoor Rashid is an Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology in Sylhet. He has previously worked as an Associate Coordinator in Social Forestry Programme, Proshika, Bangladesh. He is a PhD Fellow in Environmental Law, University of Western Sydney, Australia, has completed his MSc in Environmental Science at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden, Post Graduation Diploma in Environment & Development, Imperial College, University of London, UK, and MSc and BSc in Forestry and Environmental Science from University of Chittagong. He is affiliated with Asia Pacific Mountain Forum, International Forestry Students Association, Rural Development Forestry Network and Sustainability and Social Research Groups. He has been awarded IPRS Scholarship for PhD in Environmental Law from University of Western Sydney, Australia, SIDA Scholarship for Masters in Environmental Science from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden and Commonwealth Environment Scholarship for Post Graduate Diploma in Environment & Development at Imperial College, London University.

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## David Hulme

**Abstract:** Bangladesh is the country most likely to experience severe problems because of its vulnerability to climate change (Roy et. El, 2011, Harmeling, 2010). In some ways it has and is responding well to these challenges through the production of the “Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan” and the international role it is playing in promoting climate change mitigation and demanding resources for adaptation. However, the focus of policy and action in Bangladesh is on food security and adapting to climate change in rural areas; research, policy and action on adaptation in urban areas, and particularly for low-income settlements and poor people, has been neglected (Banks, Roy and Hulme).



**Bionote:** David Hulme is a Professor of Development Studies at Manchester University, Executive Director of the Brooks World Poverty Institute and Associate Director at Chronic Poverty Research Centre. At present he is a Senior Research Fellow with the Leverhulme Trust writing a book entitled 'A Contemporary History of Global Poverty and Global Poverty Reduction: Compassion and Self-interest'. His recent publications are:

*Poverty Dynamics: Inter-disciplinary Perspectives* (2009, Oxford University Press with T Addison and R Kanbur),

*Social Protection for the Poor and Poorest: Risks, Needs and Rights* (2008, Palgrave with A. Barrientos),

*The Challenge of Global Inequality* (2006, Palgrave with A Greig and M Turner) a Special Issue of the *Journal of Development Studies* (2006) on 'Cross-disciplinary Research on Poverty and Inequality'

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## David Lewis

**Abstract:** Bangladesh's NGO sector has attracted considerable attention from development researchers and practitioners, with recognition of its success in tackling poverty in areas such as microfinance services, non-formal education and female empowerment. Organizations such as BRAC, Nijera Kori and Grameen have gained global reputations for their innovative work. Much of this research has rightly (though sometimes uncritically) focused on the outstanding success of these organizations. Yet this positive view has coexisted alongside persistent concerns about the sector's variable quality and limited accountability.



**Bionote:** David Lewis is a Professor of Social Policy & Development, London School of Economics & Political Science. He has been a Reader in Social Policy, London School of Economics, Acting Director, Centre for Civil Society, Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Non-Governmental Organisations, LSE. He has accomplished PhD from University of Bath, & MA/BA from University of Cambridge. He has won research Awards on 'Activists, Power and Sectoral Boundaries: Life Histories of NGO Leaders', funded by "Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and 'Organizational Culture and Spaces for Empowerment', Research Project funded by World Bank. Some of his significant Publications are:

(1996) *Trading the Silver Seed: Local Knowledge and Market Moralities in Aquacultural Development*. (with G.D. Wood and R. Gregory).

London: *Intermediate Technology Publications*, 1993 ed) *NGOs and the State in Asia: Rethinking Roles in Sustainable Agricultural development* (With J. Farrington). London:

Routledge, (1991) *Technologies and Transactions: A Study of the Interaction between New Technology and Agrarian Structure in Bangladesh*. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh: *Centre for Social Studies*.

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## Donald Curtis

**Abstract:** Governance practice is framed by two things; prevailing sets of ideas as well as feedback upon these ideas through the 'social, political and cultural dynamics' of the relationships involved; with very uncertain outcomes. The picture is complicated by the fact that prevailing ideas overlay, contradict and do not entirely displace those that prevailed earlier. Their proponents also, particularly the foreign expert, are several stages removed from the points at which ideas might be proved good or bad, useful or otherwise in turning experienced bad governance situations into shared, common or public goods. For want of a persuasive, universal, 'good governance' ideology Bangladeshi led reform should focus upon enabling multiple actors, at many levels, to confront the bad and find the good.



**Bionote:** Donald Curtis is a public management and institutional development specialist. He has accomplished PhD in Sociology from University of Kent, Dip Sociology, and BA Arts, Dip Social Work from Dublin. Donald Curtis has previous experiences in working as a consultant, project manager and writer in the International Development Department, University of Birmingham, Director, IDD and a Senior Lecturer at IDD. He has served as a social worker in Birmingham and as an NGO Manager in Botswana. His significant publications are:

*BEYOND GOVERNMENT: ORGANISATION FOR COMMON BENEFIT*, MacMillan, 1991

*PREVENTING FAMINE: POLICIES AND PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA* with Shepherd and Hubbard. Routledge, London and York. 1989

*EVALUATION FOR VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING* (3 Chapters), Wiley, London 1980 (Cairncross, A. *et al.*)

*WATER HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT*, Tri-Med Books, London 1978. one of three principal authors, (Feachem, R *et al.*)

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## Donna Craig

**Abstract:** Good governance in natural resource management (NRM) is one of the most crucial issues in tropical developing countries that is often inappropriately embedded in national policies and political agendas. It is, in fact, even more important for countries like Bangladesh with exceptionally high pressure and dependence on its natural resources for sustaining rural livelihoods. Globally, nowadays, good governance is considered as one of the key factors for achieving the goal of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Bangladesh, of late has responded to that global zeal by involving local communities in the management of country's declining forest and other natural resources. The colonial legacy of the forestry sector of Bangladesh was planned and managed as interim projects through donors' prescriptions.



**Bionote:** Donna Craig is a specialist in international, comparative and national environmental law and policy LLM, York University. She was one of the founders of Macquarie University Centre for Environmental Law and a key member of the Centre until her current appointment as a Professor of Environmental Law at School of Law, University of Western Sydney. Donna also held a Research Chair as Professor of Desert Knowledge at Charles Darwin University. Donna served as Regional Vice-Chair for Oceania of the World Conservation Union, Commission of Environmental Law for eight years, is a member of the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (2007-2010), a member of Advisory Board of Greenland-based International Training Centre of Indigenous Peoples, and Regional Governor of the International Council on Environmental Law. She also works with Aboriginal organizations developing natural resource based livelihoods and advising on national and international legal regimes. Some of her significant publications are:

*Nettheim, G, Meyers, G and Craig, D Indigenous Peoples and Governance Structures: A Comparative Analysis of Land and Resource Management Rights, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2002* Craig, D, Robinson, N and Koh, KL (eds),

*Capacity Building for Environmental Law in the Asian and Pacific Region; Approaches and Resources (Two Volumes), Asian Development Bank, Manila, 2002.*

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## Ferdous Jahan

**Abstract:** Bangladesh is the country most likely to experience severe problems because of its vulnerability to climate change (Roy et. El, 2011 , Harmeling, 2010). In some ways it has and is responding well to these challenges through the production of the “Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan” and the international role it is playing in promoting climate change mitigation and demanding resources for adaptation. However, the focus of policy and



action in Bangladesh is on food security and adapting to climate change in rural areas; research, policy and action on adaptation in urban areas, and particularly for low-income settlements and poor people, has been neglected (Banks, Roy and Hulme).

**Bionote:** Ferdous Jahan is an Associate Professor at the Department of Public Administration in Dhaka University and BRAC University. She has accomplished PhD and Masters in Political Science from University of Pennsylvania and Masters in Government Administration from University of Pennsylvania. She has previously been a Graduate Associate at Harrison College House at the University of Pennsylvania, Program Director of Law and Society Program at Harrison College House and Principal Officer at Eastern Bank Ltd, Dhaka. She has been awarded Jerry Lee Distinguished Graduate Fellowship by University of Pennsylvania, Fels Institute Fellowship by University of Pennsylvania, Fullbright Fellowship by the United States Govt., Academic Excellence Award by University of Dhaka and Merit List Award by Dhaka Board of Education. Her most significant publication is:

*“When Women Protect Women: Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence in South Asia”.* South Asian Publishers, New Delhi, India, 2008.

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## Graham Brown

**Abstract:** Since the mid-1990s, development agencies have been placing greater emphasis on democratisation as part of their overall approach to promoting development, often under the broad rubric of 'good governance' (see, e.g., Healey et al., 1992, Robinson, 1994). The assumption is that democracy requires governments to be more accountable and responsive to demands of the population through regular free and fair elections. From a theoretical perspective, this policy agenda largely reflects the 'modernisation' hypothesis that posits democratisation as a function of increasing demands for 'voice' and 'accountability' as processes of economic development create new middle classes (Lipset, 1960, Lipset, 1994). While the modernisation hypothesis has been widely criticised for its occidentalist assumptions, recent research has concluded that it remains valid across diverse cultural and religious contexts, albeit in diverse, path-dependent ways (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005).



**Bionote:** Graham Brown is a Senior Lecturer in International Development and Economics at the University of Bath. He is also a Research Associate, International Department, at Oxford University and previously the Southeast Asia Research Officer at Oxford University and Finance and Economics Research Officer, *Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang*, Penang, Malaysia. He accomplished his PhD in Politics from University of Nottingham, UK, MA from University of Nottingham, UK and B.A. (Hons) in Economics and Politics. He has won University of Oxford Teaching Excellence Award, University of Oxford Social Science Division Staff Merit Award, Outstanding Academic Title Award and Best Student Award by University of Nottingham. He is professionally affiliated with International Studies Association, Malaysian Social Science Association, Political Studies Association of the UK, Association of Asian Studies and Association of Southeast Asian Studies, UK. His significant Publications are:

*Special Issue Guest Editor, "Federalism, Regional Autonomy, and Conflict."*  
*Ethnopolitics, 8:1 (2009).*

*"Ethnopolitics, 8:1(2009). "Spatial disparity, regional autonomy, and ethnic protest in contemporary democracies: A paneldata analysis, 1985-2003."*  
*Ethnopolitics, 8:1 (2009).*

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## Geof Wood

**Abstract:** Just over a decade ago I published 'Prisoners and Escapees', a metaphor for understanding the entrapment of all classes and groups in Bangladesh in deep structures and institutional practices characterised by extensive patron-clientelism, kin and other loyalties and sets of multi-period, non-transparent obligations and favours. There now seems to be a broad acceptance of that analysis, with a shared understanding of why 'escape' is so risky and difficult. That analysis was assisted by the use of the 'institutional responsibility framework'. Since then, 3 conceptual innovations have been made. First, with Ian Gough, I have adapted that institutional responsibility framework into a comparative regime model to show how rules of the game can vary as a function of institutional choices.



**Bionote:** Geof Wood is the Professor of International Development at University of Bath. He was previously the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Head of Department, Economics and International Development and Director at Institute For International Policy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Bath. He has accomplished PhD from University of Bath, in Sociology, MPhil in Politics, University of Sussex and BA Hons in Politics and Sociology, University of Sussex, in the School of African and Asian Studies. Some of his significant publications are:

*Wood G.D., S.Loughhead and O.Mittal (2001) Urban Poverty and Vulnerability in India: A Review of DfID's Experiences from a Social Policy Perspective. DfID, London August 2001 (35 pages)*

*Wood G.D. (2001) 'Financing Poverty Eradication: Towards New Frontiers' Chapter 1 in I.Sharif and G.Wood (Eds) Challenges to Second Generation Microfinance: Supervision, Regulation and Resource Mobilisation UPL, Dhaka pp17-45*

*Wood G.D. (2001) 'Desperately Seeking Security' Journal of International Development, Vol.13 (5) 523-534*  
*Wood G.D. (2003)*

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## Golam Robbani

**Abstract:** Leaders claim, and people expect, that politicians are patriots. In reality, however, politicians cannot be patriot. Explaining why, this article will reveal the real portrait of political leaders in Bangladesh. Because of the wide gap between the popular belief and reality, for bad governance people tend to blame political leaders. However apparent it is, politicians are not entirely responsible for bad governance simply because they are driven by rational choice. This paper will indicate who, then, is responsible for the endless sufferings of the people in Bangladesh, and why.



**Bionote:** Golam Robbani is a Lecturer at the Department of Accounting and Information Management at University of Maastricht, Netherlands. He is also an online course tutor of MBA at the University of Liverpool. He was previously a Project Researcher at the United Nations University- Regional Integration Studies and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Finance & Banking, Rajshahi University. He is presently doing his PhD on Applied Economics, University of Antwerp, Belgium, had completed his Masters in International Law & Economics at World Trade Institute, Switzerland, Masters in Business Management, Asian Institute of Management, Manila, Philippines and M.Com & B. Com on Finance and Banking at the University of Rajshahi. He has significant fellowships e.g. First Grade Merit Scholarship, University of Rajshahi, Swiss Scholarship to study International Law & Economics, Research Fellowship at Asian Scholarship Foundation and others. Some of his significant publications are:

*Robbani, Golam. 2010. 'Regional Integration and Militarized Interstate Disputes: An Empirical Analysis'.*

*In Brauer, Jurgen and Benjamin E. Goldsmith eds. 'Economics of War and Peace: Economic, Legal, and Political Perspective'.*

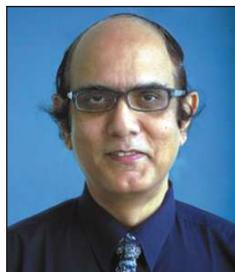
*Contributions to Conflict Management, Peace Economics and Development, Vol. 14, 187-205.*

*'Regional Peace through Economic Integration: Applicability of the EU Model in South Asia'. In Heribert Dieter ed.*

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## Habibul Haque Khondker

**Abstract:** The discourse of governance has dominated discussions of development since the 1990s; thanks to the changing rhetorical and pragmatic focus of the international development agencies, notably, the World Bank. The discussion began with a renewed interest in the role of the government or the state in economic development. Whatever the terminology is, it deals with matters of state involvement in economic management and development. Years of development experience have forced the development experts to recognize that for the late developers, the role of the state is crucial.



**Bionote:** Habibul Haque Khondker is a Professor at the Department of Social Science and Humanities at the University of Zayed, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He was previously an Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore, Research Associate, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburg, Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Lecturer Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka and Researcher: World Bank Project, World Fertility Survey, Dhaka. He is also a Visiting Professor at the United Nations University, Tokyo, Visiting Scholar, Cornell University, Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, Visiting Fellow, Institute of Social Studies, the Hague and Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburg. Some of his significant publications are:

*Globalization: East and West (co-authored with Bryan Turner) Sage, London, 2010 p. 239*

*The Middle East and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Globalization.* [Edited with Jan Nederveen Pieterse] Dubai and Abu Dhabi: Zayed University Press, 2010. p.260 (also published as a special issue of *The Encounters: A Journal of Culture and Society* No. 2. June, 2010)

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## Harry Wallace Blair

**Abstract:** After years of political instability caused largely by intransigent political party leadership, Bangladesh underwent yet another period of authoritarian rule in 2007–08, then emerging once more as a parliamentary system at the beginning of 2009. Hopes ran high that the dysfunctional politics of the past could be laid to rest and that this time, finally, the country could establish and sustain a Westminster-style democracy. Almost immediately, however, the new order began to unravel, and within a few months the old counterproductive politics of irreconcilable party leaders had reasserted itself as the dominant theme of political life. The classical Greek term *stasis*, denoting a continual disturbance of the polity caused by violent rivalry between aristocratic leaders, seemed once again to offer the most accurate depiction in Bangladesh's political life.



**Bionote:** Harry Wallace Blair is an Associate Department Chair, Senior Research Scholar and Lecturer of Political Science at Yale University and also the Director of Undergraduate Study, South Asia Studies Program, Yale University. He has accomplished PhD in Political Science from Duke University, MA in Political Science from Duke University and A.B. in History from Cornell University. Harry Wallace Blair has conducted in depth researches on the political system of developing countries. Harry Blair was previously affiliated with Rutgers University as a Visiting Professor and US Agency for International Development as a Senior Democracy Specialist. His significant publications are:

*The Political Economy of Participation in Local Development Programs: Short-term Impasse and Long-term Change in South Asia and the United States from the 1950s to the 1980s* (Ithaca: Rural Development Committee, Center for International Studies, Cornell University, 1982).

*Voting, Caste, Community, Society: Explorations in Aggregate Data Analysis in India and Bangladesh* (Delhi & Stockholm: Young Asia, 1979).

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## Hasinae-Jannat

**Abstract:** Institutional structure of the Urban Local Government bodies of Bangladesh has been derived through juristic approach within the constitutional framework. Presently the structure of Urban Local Government system exists in two forms. The major cities of the country have been declared as City Corporation. The rest of the medium sized towns to small urban centers are regarded as Pourashavas by legislative provision dividing into different categories. As ineffectiveness and inefficiency is a common feature of the different state owned organizations, autonomous and service institutions, local government institutions, corporations, private and public enterprises, it hinders to establish pro-active urban governance in the country. One of the major reasons is poor institutionalization of the local government bodies, which is a symbol of governance crisis in Bangladesh. Urban governance can be characterized by interaction of three important counterparts as institution, locally elected representatives and citizens. The study has been conducted on four selected Pourashavas based on primary data collected from those three interactive stakeholder groups as the citizens, Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) and the concerned office staffs addressing the issues of governance. An interactive model was developed for in depth analysis. To identify problems of service recipients, household survey was conducted on citizen by structured questionnaires. Another questionnaire survey was conducted on Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) regarding the problems and prospects of Pourashavas. It has been found that the local government units are under pressure to take any development activities (48%) and they faced biases in fund allocation due to political reasons (52%). On the other hand, about 90% of LEBs are not satisfied with the service delivery process. On the other hand, about 46% of the citizen expressed their dissatisfaction including 13% who are highly dissatisfied with the service delivery.



**Bionote:** Hasinae-Jannat is the Executive Director of Habitat Foundation. She is also a researcher, columnist and free lance writer. She was previously the Structural Engineer of Hometech Constructions Ltd. She has done her BSc and Msc in Civil Engineering from KUET and BUET respectively. She is affiliated with Members of Engineers Institute of Bangladesh.

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## Haydory Akbar Ahmed

**Abstract:** Lack of effective governance presents the key challenge in implementing development programs in Bangladesh. Governance problems are evident in social safety net (SSN) programs in the form of leakages and corruption. Often, corrupt practices are manifested through: (i) politicization of beneficiary selection; (ii) misappropriation of government allocation; and (iii) lack of transparency of the bureaucratic hierarchy. In general, examination of the design and implementation of these programs reveal that bureaucracy plays the pivotal role, while local government is involved only during the service delivery phase. In this paper, it is argued that greater civic engagement is likely to alleviate the issues mentioned above by enhancing transparency and accountability.



**Bionote:** Haydory Akbar Ahmed is a Lecturer, Dept. of Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University. He was previously a Sr. Research Associate at the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University & a Research & Consular Officer at the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian High Commission. Akbar Ahmed has done his BSS and MSS in Economics from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and MSc in International Economics from University of Birmingham, UK. Ahmed has been awarded Merit Scholarship for Outstanding Performance in SSC and HSC examinations; Vice Chancellor's medal at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and Research Grant by Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund-International Finance Corporation (BICF-IFC). Some of his significant publications are:

*State of Governance in Bangladesh 2008: Confrontation, Competition, Accountability. Authored Chapter 5: Institutions of Accountability, Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

*Export, Import, Remittance and Economic Growth in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis Trade and Development Review, Vol. 2, Issue 2, pp.79-92, Dec. 2009, Jadavpur University, India*

*Is Real GDP Per Capita Stationary for Bangladesh? Empirical Evidence from Structural Break, forthcoming in the Journal of Actual Problems in Economics with Ozturk, Ilhan and Salahuddin, Gazi*

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## Iftekhar Iqbal

**Abstract:** Some of the issues that the paper raises relate to the anxious and sometimes hostile relationship between the civil society institutions and actors and social groups who consider themselves outside the boundary of the civil society. This paper shows that much of the anxiety and conflict, affecting governance practices, arise from the civil society's inability or lack of initiatives to identify and negotiate with the 'traditional' or religious public institutions. Such lack of communication has been historically constructed a process much shaped by the way the role of capital and market forces has been conceptualized at the interface of modernity and tradition. This proposition requires us to take a genealogical understanding of the relationship between civil society and the society at large, conceptualized here as *samaj*.



**Bionote:** Iftekhar Iqbal is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Dhaka. He has accomplished PhD from University of Cambridge, MPhil, University of Cambridge Masters of Arts from Dhaka University, and BA Honors from Dhaka University. Iftekhar Iqbal has been awarded the Research Fellowship Award for Reconstructing the History and Genealogy of the Bhawal State, Research Fellowship- Aga Khan University, Cambridge Scholarship for Commonwealth Studies, Holland Rose Award, Faculty of History from Cambridge University. He is currently affiliated with the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, as Bangladeshi representative and Asiatic Society of Bangladesh as its member. Some of his significant publications are:

*The Bengal Delta, Ecology, State and Social Change,*

*Return of the Bhadrakalok: Agrarian Relations in Eastern Bengal,*

*The Sundarbans Forest Systems: Patterns of Colonial Control and Social Response to Capitalist Enterprises,*

*Environment and Culture In: Cultural Survey of Bangladesh,*

*Towards an Environmental History of Colonial East Bengal: Paradigms and Praxis, Railway in Colonial India.*

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## Imtiaz Ahmed

**Abstract:** Methodologically, the spheres of the state could be divided into three: political society, market and civil society. The latter would include the academics, students, intellectuals, civil rights groups, political parties, media, cultural bodies, sports clubs and other associations, in fact, all those actors and agencies engaged in reproducing consent or social capital in the society. The paper argues that when it comes to reproducing democracy and democratisation in Bangladesh the role of civil society is as critical as other spheres of the state.



**Bionote:** Imtiaz Ahmed is a Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka. Previously Imtiaz Ahmed has served as the Chairperson of International Relations, University of Dhaka and a Visiting Professor at University of Sagesse, Beirut. He has accomplished PhD in Political Science from Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, MA in International Relations at the Research School of Pacific Studies from The Australian National University of Canberra, Australia, & MSS and BSS in International Relations, University of Dhaka. He has been awarded SSRC Award on International Conflict Zones, Program on Global Security & Cooperation by Social Science Research Council, New York, Distinguished Leadership Award, American Biographical Institute, North Carolina, USA & Honorary Citizenship by The State of Maryland, USA, presented by the Governor of the State of Maryland. He is professionally affiliated with Center for Alternatives, Power and Participation Research Centre, Dhaka, Asian Pacific Peace Research Association, Canberra, Australia & many others. His significant publications include:

*Historicizing 1971 Genocide: State versus Person (Dhaka: University Press Limited, 2009),*

*The Construction of Diaspora: South Asians Living in Japan (Dhaka: University Press Limited, 2000),*

*State and Foreign Policy: India's Role in South Asia (New Delhi, India: Vikas Publishing House, 1993). Also (Dhaka: Academic Publishers, 1993).*

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## Ipshita Basu

**Abstract:** Since the mid-1990s, development agencies have been placing greater emphasis on democratisation as part of their overall approach to promoting development, often under the broad rubric of 'good governance' (see, e.g., Healey et al., 1992, Robinson, 1994). The assumption is that democracy requires governments to be more accountable and responsive to demands of the population through regular free and fair elections. From a theoretical perspective, this policy agenda largely reflects the 'modernisation' hypothesis that posits democratisation as a function of increasing demands for 'voice' and 'accountability' as processes of economic development create new middle classes (Lipset, 1960, Lipset, 1994). While the modernisation hypothesis has been widely criticised for its occidentalist assumptions, recent research has concluded that it remains valid across diverse cultural and religious contexts, albeit in diverse, path-dependent ways (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005).



**Bionote:** Ipshita Basu is the Head of Research at the Institute of Governance Studies. Prior to this Ipshita was a Lecturer of International Security at the University of Warwick besides also holding a position as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Westminster on Political Theory and International Relations. She has done her Master's in Gender, Literature and Modernity from Warwick University & Bachelor's in Economics and English Literature from Bangalore University. Some of her significant publications are:

*Basu, I., 2011 Security and Development: Are they Two Sides of the Same Coin?: Investigating India's Two-Pronged Policy towards left wing extremism.*

*Contemporary South Asia Vol. 19 Issue 4 (December) Basu, I. (under review) Uncovering the 'politics' of recognition and redistribution: Development, Tribal Identity Politics and Distributive Justice in India's Jharkhand. Submitted to Development and Change*

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## Jalal Alamgir

**Abstract:** Though belatedly, mainstream thinking on development now considers political conflict as an endogenous problem rather than an exogenous issue. This shift is reflected in World Bank's *World Development Report 2011*, which places emphasis squarely on violent conflict. In similar vein, almost any observer of politics in Bangladesh would consider violence endogenous and endemic, and therefore a core governance challenge. The scholarly understanding of political violence in the country, however, remains surprisingly scant. Anecdotes abound, as do news reports and journalistic analysis but to date no systematic study exists on the two key questions on this topic: what are the overall patterns of political violence, and what are the main motives of violent activists.



**Bionote:** Jalal Alamgir is an Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Boston. He is also the Director of International Relations, Minor, University of Massachusetts, Boston and a visiting scholar at the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University. He has accomplished PhD, Department of Political Science, from Brown University, Rhode Island, Masters in International Relations from Brown University, Rhode Island, and Bachelors in Economics and Government from St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York. Some of his significant publications are:

*Jalal Alamgir, India's Open-Economy Policy: Globalism, Rivalry, Continuity (London and New York: Routledge, 2009; Paperback published April 2010), Jalal Alamgir and Bridget Kustin, eds.,*

*Bangladesh: Foreign Policy for a Changing World (New Delhi and London: Sage, under contract, forthcoming 2012).*

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## Jens Stanislawski

**Abstract:** There are good reasons to advocate for universal direct forms of taxation in Bangladesh; not only for the sake of expanding the budget but also in order to mobilize broader interests in the performance of state. Recent experimental data collected from participants of a governance reform project suggests that, on average, citizens who pay taxes directly to their local government behave differently than those who do not. Between 2001 -2006, donors offered direct budget support to 79 Union Parishads (UP) in Sirajganj on the condition that a small part of the budget was matched by local tax contributions. Given the initial resistance to taxation, two political concessions were granted to potential taxpayers: a) Formal rights to voice their preferences of expenditure planning and b) Formal rights to representation at regularized 'Open Budget' meetings. As a result, not only were expenditure budgets significantly expanded, but citizens' expectations on performance were raised, as were their inclination to use democratic forms of Voice to hold the local government to account. By and large, the fund-matching (taxation) methodology deserves credit as a 'citizen-centric' approach that is likely to improve the terms of state-citizen interaction; towards formalization of procedure, increased transparency and trust.



**Bionote:** Jens-Filip Nycander Stanislawski was a Consultant at Oxford Policy Management, UK, Director of Pharmasia Ltd. Bangladesh, Cosultant at Rangs Electronics Ltd., Bangladesh, Researcher at Social Resources Management, Sweden, MIPS, Bangladesh, MID, Bangladesh, PROMPT, Bangladesh, Editor at MIPS, Bangladesh and Manager at PRA Antikvariat, Sweden. He is currently pursuing PhD in International Development at the Dept. of Economics and International Development from University of Bath. He has completed his Masters in International Development from the Department of Economics and International Development, University of Bath, MSc in Society & Development from the Political Studies Department from School of Oriental and African Studies Department, London, UK, & Bachelors in Political Science from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California, USA. Mr. Stanislawski has his articles published in the Daily Star Journal, Bangladesh on Taxation and Citizenship.

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## Joe Devine

**Abstract:** Since the mid-1990s, development agencies have been placing greater emphasis on democratisation as part of their overall approach to promoting development, often under the broad rubric of 'good governance' (see, e.g., Healey et al., 1992, Robinson, 1994). The assumption is that democracy requires governments to be more accountable and responsive to demands of the population through regular free and fair elections. From a theoretical perspective, this policy agenda largely reflects the 'modernisation' hypothesis that posits democratisation as a function of increasing demands for 'voice' and 'accountability' as processes of economic development create new middle classes (Lipset, 1960, Lipset, 1994). While the modernisation hypothesis has been widely criticised for its occidentalist assumptions, recent research has concluded that it remains valid across diverse cultural and religious contexts, albeit in diverse, path-dependent ways (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005)



**Bionote:** Joseph Devine is a Lecturer in International Development, Department of Economics and International Development, University of Bath. He was previously the Doctoral Researcher, Department of Economics and International Development, University of Bath, School Coordinator and Teacher for the underprivileged in Khulna, and Community Worker with Garo Community, Bangladesh. He has accomplished PhD in Economics and International Development from University of Bath, MSc (Economics) in Development Studies from London School of Economics, Post Graduate Diploma in Sociology from London School of Economics and BA in Theology from Universidad Pontificia Salamanca, Spain. Some of his significant publications are:

*Autonomy or Dependence or Both?: Perspectives From Bangladesh (with Laura Camfield, and Ian Gough). Accepted for publication in Special Issue of Journal of Happiness Studies Doing Things Differently?*

*The Everyday Politics of Membership Based Organisations.' To be published in Membership Based Organizations of the Poor (editors M.Chen, R. Jhabvala, R. Kanbur and C. Richards). Routledge (2006 expected). 'NGOs, Politics and Grassroots Mobilisation: Evidence from Bangladesh.' In Journal of South Asian Development.*

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## Kamrul Hasan

**Abstract:** Institutional structure of the Urban Local Government bodies of Bangladesh has been derived through juristic approach within the constitutional framework. Presently structure of urban local Government system exists in two forms. The major cities of the country have been declared as City Corporation. The rest medium sized towns to small urban centers are regarded as Pourashavas by legislative provision dividing into different categories. As ineffectiveness and inefficiency is a common feature of the different state owned organizations, autonomous and service institutions, local government institutions, corporations, private and public enterprises, it hinders to establish proactive urban governance in the country. One of the major reasons is poor institutionalization of the local government bodies, which is a symbol of governance crisis in Bangladesh. Urban governance can be characterized by interaction of three important counterparts as institution, locally elected representatives and citizens. The study has been conducted on four selected Pourashavas based on primary data collected from those three interactive stakeholder groups as the citizens, Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) and the concerned office staffs addressing the issues of governance. An interactive model was developed for in depth analysis. To identify problems of service recipients', household survey was conducted on citizen by structured questionnaires. Another questionnaire survey was conducted on Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) regarding the problems and prospects of Pourashavas. It has been found that the local government units are under pressure to take any development activities (48%) and they faced biases in fund allocation due to political reasons (52%). On the other hand, about 90% of LEBs are not satisfied with the service delivery process. On the other hand, about 46% of the citizen expressed their dissatisfaction including 13% who are highly dissatisfied with the service delivery.



**Bionote:** Kamrul Hasan is a Research Specialist at Habitat Foundation. He has served in CARE as a Technical Officer, in Dhaka City Corporation as a Research Officer and in UNICEF as a Research Assistant. He has completed his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from BUET and Bachelor's in Urban and Rural Planning from Khulna University.

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## Karishma Zaman

**Abstract:** Bangladesh is seemingly progressing on the path of ensuring citizens participation in state decisions and policy making that goes beyond exercising voting rights once in five years. Institutional arrangements and legal frameworks (i.e. Rights to Information Act) are being put into place to provide multiple channels for citizens to participate in the forms of various social accountability tools such as the citizen charters, participatory budgeting and enhanced devolution of power such as expanding block grants to the Union Parishads (UP) based on performance review. Consequently, there has been in recent times a plethora of civil society as well as government initiated interventions, many of the times funded and guided by the donor community to introduce and activate the institutional mechanisms based on community mobilization and capacity building of state and non-state actors to operate along these accountability frameworks. The recently held UP election has clearly demonstrated that the supposedly independent elected representatives in many cases have strong orientation to and affiliation with either of the major political parties. Therefore, it has become imperative to go beyond systems and procedures, which have been the primary target areas for improving local governance interventions by both government and the non-government organizations and critically analyze the current local political economic factors to understand progress on citizen participation and accountable local governance as the end product.



**Bionote:** Karishma Zaman is the Programme Funding Officer of Christian Aid. She has previously worked with Oxfam Novib's initiative on using entertainment-education to promote SRHR education for young people in Bangladesh and formulated a country based scoping study and also worked in a business incubation centre in Bangladesh as an Analyst of small & medium enterprises development and as a Communication Researcher in a large scale public infrastructure project in Bangladesh. She has worked as an outreach volunteer and Research Assistant for two London based charities- Westminster Befriend a Family and Social Vision respectively. She has studied MSc in Public Management & Governance from London School of Economics & Political Science where she received 2 distinctions and BBA from Dhaka University majoring in Finance where she was awarded DU General Scholarship.

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## Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque

**Abstract:** Governance can be understood as rule-making and rule-enforcing and processes thereto through cooperation and competition between multiple actors in formal and informal channels. Urban governance deals with governing urban spaces, a phenomenon that is becoming increasingly complex in the context of emerging but ill-prepared megacities like Dhaka. Initially urban governance was conceptualized mainly as urban politics/political economy with analytical foci like urban elites, urban regimes and urban growth machine. Their empirical foundations were advanced industrialized countries especially the United States. They were hardly applied to understanding urban governance in the global south. The attempts so far to understand Dhaka's governance were often driven by public administration (i.e. Siddiqui et al 2000, Siddiqui and Ahmed 2004) and urban planning (i.e. Talukder 2006) considerations.



**Bionote:** Kazi Haque is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University. He was previously affiliated with Civil Service College as a Senior Lecturer, with MRDI as Manager of Communications and Associations, with SAP-BD as Policy Advocacy & Research Officer. He has MA in Public Policy from Central European University, Budapest and in Development Studies from Erasmus University, Rotterdam and MSS in International Relations from the University of Dhaka. His significant publications are:

*Haque, Kazi (2010) 'Government Pension Service', in Problems of Governance in Bangladesh: Way Forward, Dhaka: TIB.*

*Haque, Kazi et al (2010) The New Hungary Development Plan: Evaluation of Policy-Level Horizontal Goals and Supporting Mechanisms and the Roma Population of Hungary, Policy Research, Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), Budapest (Co-author).*

*Siddiqui, Tasneem et al (2004) Work Condition of Bangladeshi Factory Workers in the Middle East, Dhaka: RMMRU (Co-author).*

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## Manoj Roy

**Abstract:** Bangladesh is the country most likely to experience severe problems because of its vulnerability to climate change (Roy et. El, 2011, Harmeling, 2010). In some ways it has and is responding well to these challenges through the production of the “Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan” and the international role it is playing in promoting climate change mitigation and demanding resources for adaptation. However, the focus of policy and action in Bangladesh is on food security and adapting to climate change in rural areas; research, policy and action on adaptation in urban areas, and particularly for low-income settlements and poor people, has been neglected (Banks, Roy and Hulme).



**Bionote:** Manoj Roy is the co-director of the Poverty and Climate Change in Urban Bangladesh (ClimUrb) research programme at Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI), at the University of Manchester, UK. He was previously a Lecturer at Spatial Planning in Queen's University, Belfast, UK, Researcher and Lecturer in Planning at the University of Manchester, Research Assistant at Stuttgart University, Germany and Architect at Dots Design Ltd, Dhaka. He has degrees in Architecture (B Arch, BUET, Bangladesh), Infrastructure Planning (MIP, Universität Stuttgart, Germany), Urban Planning (PhD, University of Manchester, UK) and Higher Education Teaching (PGCHET, Queen's University, UK). His current research sponsors include FP7 (EU); ESRC-DFID (UK) and SCI (UK). Some of his significant publications are:

2009 Roy, M. “Planning for sustainable urbanization in fast growing cities: mitigation and adaptation issues addressed in Dhaka”.

*Habitat International* 33(3): 276-286.; 2008 Roy, M and Ellis, G. Role of cross-disciplinary models in reducing the intensity of environmental release: example of Irish housing sector.

In W.L. Filho and F. Mannke (eds.) *Interdisciplinary aspects of climate change*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang Scientific Publishers.

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## Mazlin Bin Mokhtar

**Abstract:** Sustainable forest management (SFM) and integrated water resources management (IWRM) are two examples of integrated and holistic approaches for sustainable development that are being promoted and encouraged by many institutions all over the world in balancing the effects and impacts between processes of development and environmental protection. Integrated river basin management (IRBM), a subset of IWRM, has also been stated as one of the ways that should be considered seriously to help communities and governments expedite the achievement of goals of integrated management of water and other related resources that cross administrative and political boundaries.



**Bionote:** Mazlin Bin Mokhtar is a Professor, Principal Research Fellow and Director at the University of Kebangsaan, Malaysia (UKM) and Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI). He has accomplished Ph.D. in Environmental Analytical Chemistry from the University of Queensland, Australia. Some of his significant publications are:

**Mazlin B. Mokhtar**, Ahmad Zaharin Aris, Mohd Harun Abdullah, Mohd Kamil Yusoff, Md Pauzi Abdullah, Abd Rahim Idris & Raja Ibrahim Raja Uzir. 2009. A pristine environment and water quality in perspective: Maliau Basin, Borneo's mysterious world.

*Water and Environment Journal*. Vol. 23 (3): 219–228. ISSN 1018-4619. DOI 10.1111/j.1747-6593.2008.00139.x. (Impact Factor in 2008: 0.648).

*European Journal of Scientific Research*, Vol. 30, Number 3: 348–360. ISSN 1450-216X.

**Mazlin Bin Mokhtar**, Chan Hoy Yen & Goh Choo Ta. 2009. Programme Monitoring System (PMS): An Experience in Measuring Performance Towards Sustainability. *European Journal of Social Sciences*: Vol. 7 Number 3: 7-15.

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## Md. Abdullah Abraham Hossain

**Abstract:** Sustainable forest management (SFM) and integrated water resources management (IWRM) are two examples of integrated and holistic approaches for sustainable development that are being promoted and encouraged by many institutions all over the world in balancing the effects and impacts between processes of development and environmental protection. Integrated river basin management (IRBM), a subset of IWRM, has also been stated as one of the ways that should be considered seriously to help communities and governments expedite the achievement of goals of integrated management of water and other related resources that cross administrative and political boundaries.



**Bionote:** Md. Abdullah Abraham Hossain is an Assistant Conservator of Forests, Development Planning Unit at the Department of Forestry. He was previously an Assistant Manager at James Finlay PLC and Small Computing System Associate at Pradeshta Ltd. He has done his Msc in Environment and Development at the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI) and University of Kembangan, Malaysia (UKM). He has been given Young Professional Award IDRC-CRDI, Global Tiger Form Fellowship, Nishorgo Support Project Applied Research Fellowship and JICA Fellowship. His significant publications are:

*Islam, M. M. & Hossain, M. A. A. In press. Tiger and Economies. Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology. Mokhtar, M. B., Toriman, M. E. H. T. & Hossain, M. A. A. 2010.*

*Social learning in facing challenges of sustainable development a case of Langat River Basin, Malaysia. Research Journal of Applied Sciences 5(6): 434-443. URL: Mokhtar, M. B., Toriman, M. E. H. T., Hossain, M. A. A. & Tan, K. W. 2010.*

*Institutional challenges for integrated river basin management in Langat River Basin, Malaysia. Water and Environment Journal. doi:10.1111/j.1747-6593.2010.00245.x. URL:*

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## Md. Ashiq-Ur-Rahman

**Abstract:** The objective of the development efforts of Bangladesh have been focused on the notion of 'good governance' in the last couple of decades to ensure the exercise of power and utilization of resources in a pro-poor manner. However, in order to achieve this, the Bangladeshi government has been using an approach based on legislation, regulations and institutional adjustment, which they argue will promote equitable development. Globally, over the years, a shift has been observed in the prominence of development strategies for promoting economic growth in such a way that may lead to equitable growth to satisfy the basic and sustenance needs of the poor people.



**Bionote:** Md. Ashiq-Ur-Rahman is a faculty member of Urban and Rural Planning Discipline at Khulna University. He has previously worked as a GIS Specialist at CDMO. Ashiqur Rahman has completed his Master's in Urban Development Planning from University College London & Bachelor's in Urban and Rural Planning from Khulna University. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Urban Studies, School of Built Environment, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. He is associated with International Network of Urban Research and Action, European Network of Housing Research, Youth Forum for Democracy, Bangladesh Debate Federation, Khulna University Planners Alumni and many others. He has been awarded James-Watt Scholarship, Commonwealth Scholarship and Dean List Award for exemplary performance in research studies and academics. Some of his significant publications are:

*Heriot-Watt Postgraduate Research Conference, 2011, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh "Why housing acts as capital for sustainable livelihood in the low-income urban settlements of Bangladesh?" (Winner, Best Paper Award of the Conference) European Network for Housing Research (ENHR)*

*Conference, 2011, Toulouse, France "Evolution of Pro-poor Housing Practices: International Trend and Bangladesh Perspective" Paper accepted Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-AERUS)*

*Conference, 2011, Madrid, Spain "Can enabling approach promote the transformation for scaling up pro-poor housing initiatives in Bangladesh?" Paper Submitted Journal of Housing Studies*

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## Md. Ataur Rahman

**Abstract:** The growing tension between the ideal type model of representative as defined by liberal democratic theory and the current challenge of the state in terms of providing governance is clearly reflected in political science analysis. The concept of new governance in the face of rising expectations of the people has triggered a series of issues related to accountability and the exercise of political power. Given the profound changes in the process of governing where the distinction between state and society has almost become untenable, power and accountability is now inseparable. In fact, the New Public Management (NPM) and governance reform have now profound impact on political leadership both within the state and society at large.



**Bionote:** Md. Ataur Rahman is a consultant, Bangladesh 2020, CENTRA Technology, INC, Washington DC, USA, a visiting Senior Research Fellow at National University of Singapore and Professor and Founder-Chair of Centre of Governance Studies, Dhaka University. He was previously a Professor of Political Science and Founder-Director of Centre for Advanced Research in Social Science, Dhaka University & Dean Faculty of Social Science, Dhaka University. He has also worked as a consultant in various NGO's and projects like USAID, UNDP, CGS, NDI, The World Bank & Youth Leadership Development for Good Governance. He is a Doctorate of Philosophy in Political Science, University of Chicago, Masters of Arts in Social Sciences, University of Chicago, & Masters and Bachelors in Political Science, University of Dhaka. Some of his significant publications are:

*Political Leadership in the Middle East: Tradition, Transition and Transformation*

*New Regional Power Balance in the Middle East: The Role of Iran, New Frontiers of Security: Quest for a Moderate Muslim State RUSI*

*Democratisation and Leadership: Bangladesh Perspective*

*Democracy and Conflict Management in South Asia, Dialogue Among Cultures: The Role of Leadership, India, Bangladesh and the Super Powers.*

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## Md. Mizanur Rahman

**Abstract:** Civil servants in Bangladesh undergo various trainings right from the beginning of their career. The mandatory training is the foundation training provided in the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre. Advanced Course on Administration and Development and Senior Staff Course are the two other major local trainings. The limitations of the local trainings are often heard and easily understandable. But the big question emerges that why the foreign trainings are failing to deliver? Many Bangladeshi civil servants have undergone foreign Master's and PhD courses in many famous universities of the world under ODA system.



**Bionote:** Mohammad Mizanur Rahman is a Senior Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Industries. He has previously been with the Cabinet Division, Upazila Nirbahi, Ministry of Commerce, Women and Children Affairs, Home Affairs, Rajshahi University, Assistant Commissioner (Land), & Magistrate. He has accomplished PhD in the Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi, and Master's and Honors in Political Science from University of Dhaka. He is professionally affiliated with M & E Core Group and Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Foundation. His significant publications are:

*Rahman, Md. Mizanur, (1997). "Role of Students in Poverty Alleviation" in Dinajpur Government College Souvenir: 1997 Rahman, Md. Mizanur,*

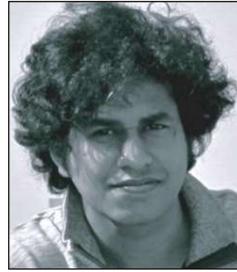
*(2002). "Of Quality Civil Service and Its Prerequisites" published in the Daily Independent: Dhaka Rahman, Md. Mizanur and Habib, Shah Ahsan (1998).*

*"Realizing the Rights to Safe Motherhood" published in the Daily Star: Dhaka*

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## Md. Mostafizur Rahman

**Abstract:** The central political trend in democratic developing countries is to strengthen the local government and thus creating an economic stimulus. Bangladesh, being a developing country with high poverty rate followed by major illiterate and/or semiliterate citizen, is severely facing the awareness lacking of citizen's basic rights and liabilities. The local government (Union Parishads) is solely responsible for ensuring the marginal peoples' rights but practically the issues related with 'social protection and social safety net' schemes are not functioning adequately due to corruption and irregularities, inadequate finance, non-cooperation from members, lack of training of Union Parishads (UPs) functionaries, lack of technical staff and absence of coordination, etc. This paper focuses on the evaluation of governance practice and its performances in three Upazilas namely Batiagha, Rupsha and Fakirhat in delivering some selected basic services. Both questionnaire survey and focus group discussion (FGD) were adopted along with quantitative and qualitative assessment of 'social safety net' schemes through multi-stage cluster sampling and scoring index. Still Bangladesh experiences the 'top-down' approach for local government decision-making. Eventually, in most of the cases these UPs often struggle with financial resource, human resource, people's participation, power relations and functions. Lack of transparency, accountability and responsibility at the local government level cause the local people deprived of the services promised by UPs.



**Bionote:** Md. Mostafizur Rahman is an Assistant Professor in Urban and Rural Planning Discipline at Khulna University. He was previously a Research Assistant in CCONG, Spain, M & E Officer at Centre for Development & Entrepreneurship Research, Khulna and Research Associate of Khulna City Corporation where his objective was on Slum Development. He has obtained MSc in International Cooperation and Urban Development from Technical University Darmstadt, Germany and International University of Catalunya, Spain.

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## Mohammad Ekhwan Toriman

**Abstract:** Sustainable forest management (SFM) and integrated water resources management (IWRM) are two examples of integrated and holistic approaches for sustainable development that are being promoted and encouraged by many institutions all over the world in balancing the effects and impacts between processes of development and environmental protection. Integrated river basin management (IRBM), a subset of IWRM, has also been stated as one of the ways that should be considered seriously to help communities and governments expedite the achievement of goals of integrated management of water and other related resources that cross administrative and political boundaries.



**Bionote:** Mohammad Ekhwan Toriman is a Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, at University of Kebangsaan, Malaysia. He has accomplished PhD in (Hydrogeomorphology and GIS application), Faculty of Science, Agriculture & Engineering (University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK)- & M.Sc (Hydrogeomorphology). Faculty of Science & Engineering, (University of Manchester). He has been awarded Excellent Teaching Award, UKM, twice. His significant publications are:

*Othman Jaafar, Mohd Ekhwan Hj Toriman, Mushrifah Hj Idris, Sharifah Mastura S.A, Hafizan Hj.11 Juahir, Nor Azlina Abdul Aziz, Khairul Amri Kamarudin & Nor Rohaizah Jamil. 2010.*

*Study of water level-discharge relationship using Artificial Neural Network (ANN) in Sungai Gumum, Tasik Chini Pahang Malaysia.*

*Research Journal Applied Sciences. 5 (1):20-26. (ISBN: 1815-932X). 02 Muhammad Barzani Gasim, Salmijah Surif, Mazlin Mokhtar, Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Mohd. Ekhwan Hj. Toriman, Sahibin Abd. Rahim & Chong Huei Bee. 2010.*

*Analisis Banjir Disember 2006: Tumpuan di Kawasan Bandar Segamat, Johor. Sains Malaysiana. Volume 39 No. 3. June 2010.*

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## Mohammad Habibur Rahman

**Abstract:** At least 17 reform commissions and their sponsors have failed to bring significant administrative reform in Bangladesh in its forty years of sovereign existence. None of these proposed reforms would likely have reordered the relationship between government and civil society in the direction of more responsive governance and better services to citizens. A coherent development concept distinctly different from the dominant model exists—the ideas of 'participation' and of the 'stakeholder'; the writings of countless academics and practitioners; and, alternative action strategies outlined in programs called “Implementing Policy Change”, SCALE as developed by GreenCom, and most recently the “Upside Down View of Governance”, among many others.



**Bionote:** Mohammad Habibur Rahman is a Programme Leader of Graduate Studies of Business, Economics and Policy Studies at the University of Brunei, Darussalam. He has accomplished PhD in Public Administration from the University of Wales, United Kingdom, Masters in Economics and Social Studies, University of Wales and Masters and Bachelors in Public Administration from University of Dhaka. He is currently affiliated with York Centre for Asian Research, York University, European Network of Bangladesh Studies, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Public Administration Association. Some of his significant publications are:

*Rahman, M.H. and Singh, S. (2011). Towards strong local governance: current reform scenario in Fiji,*

*International Journal of Public Administration (Philadelphia, USA), (forthcoming, 2011). Khan, A., Khan, R. and Rahman, M.H. (2011).*

*Developing international executives: the capacity-building approach, Development and Learning in Organizations, (Emerald, Doncaster, U.K.), 25 (2), 10-14. Naz, R., Pathak R.D., Rahman, M.H., Agarwal, K.N. and Smith, R.F.I. (2009).*

*E-governance to cut corruption in public service delivery: a case study of Fiji, International Journal of Public Administration (Philadelphia, USA), 32 (5), 415-437.*

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## Mohammad Mohabbat Khan

**Abstract:** Failure of major administrative reform efforts at the implementation stage has been a major concern for reformers all over the world. Major administrative reform intended to transform the structure of elite civil service and bring about significant attitudinal changes in the attitudes and work habits of those civil servants are usually resisted and not implemented. Bangladesh has not been an exception to this global trend. The growing alienation of elite civil servants from majority of citizens specially the poor and the disadvantaged is one of the outcomes of failures of major administrative reforms. The situation has become critical in view growing citizen demands for timely and quality service delivery at less cost.



**Bionote:** Mohammad Mohabbat Khan is a Professor of Public Administration at the University of Dhaka. He has served as a member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission and worked as a consultant for UNDP, USAID, World Bank, ILO, ADB, UNCHS & SADC. Mohabbat Khan has been a teacher at the University of Dhaka, University of Southern California, University of Benin & Nigeria & University of Yamouk, Jordan. He accomplished his PhD in Public Administration from University of Southern California & MPA from University of Syracuse. He has completed his MA in Public Administration from University of Dhaka & BA Hons in Political Science from University of Dhaka. He has been nominated to receive Gold Medal for Bangladesh by American Biographical Institute, 21<sup>st</sup>.century Award for Achievement by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England, 2000 Outstanding Academics for the 21<sup>st</sup>. century and many others. His significant publications are:

*Administrative Reforms in Bangladesh* (South Asian Publishers [SAP], 1998),

*The Bureaucratic Ascendancy* [co-authored] (SAP, 2005)

*Dominant Executive and Dormant Legislature* (SAP, 2006).

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## M. Shamsul Haque

**Abstract:** In the existing literature on decentralization, there is a tendency to explain the issue largely in terms of administrative-structural perspective. This tendency is common among experts affiliated with international agencies providing financial and technical assistance for decentralization in developing countries. They usually highlight the major benefits of decentralization such as people's empowerment, local participation, democratization, responsive service delivery, and so on. This structural and one-sided view often discounts the inherently political nature of decentralization. First, in many developing countries, the intent behind decentralization initiatives is often the hidden political agenda of policy makers to expand their public support and social influence, incorporate remote areas under effective control, and enhance their legitimacy to rule.



**Bionote:** M. Shamsul Haque is a Professor of Political Science at the National University of Singapore. He is also affiliated with the Asian Journal of Political Science as an Editor, International Review of Administrative Sciences as a Deputy Editor and Senate Delegacy and University Research Grant Council in the National University of Singapore as a member. Shamsul Haque has accomplished PhD from the University of Southern California in Public Administration with distinction and MPA from the University of Southern California, with "Certificate of Merit". He has won significant awards e.g. Best Dissertation Award, University of Southern California, Certificate of Merit, MPA, University of Southern California, Outstanding Academic Achievement Certificate, Office of International Students & Scholars, University of Southern California and Comparative Public Administration, American Society for Public Administration, Annual Conference, Miami, Florida. His significant publications are:

*Haque, M. Shamsul (1999). Restructuring Development Theories and Policies: A Critical Study (single-authored). Albany, New York: State University of New York Press. xiv+384pp.*

*Haque, M. Shamsul (2004). Handbook of Development Policy Studies (co-edited). New York: Marcel Dekker. 754 pp.*

*Haque, M. Shamsul (2006). Sustainable Development Policy and Administration (co-edited). London: Taylor & Francis, 656 pp.*

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## Mridul Chowdhury

**Abstract :** Bangladesh's media scene has seen an astounding change in the past decade. While on the one hand, the media is influencing public opinion greatly, on the other hand, the media ownership is increasingly dominated by businessmen, politicians and various interest groups. At the same time, there has been a huge rise in citizen's media and blogs. Even though the outreach of internet is somehow limited now, the emergence of this citizen's journalism and the impending expansion of internet connectivity through out the country presents a big opportunity in the coming days with respect to alternative independent media sector. The paper will evaluate the political impact of the growth of the mainstream and alternative mass media in Bangladesh. Based on the configuration of the media landscape and relevant trends, the paper will explore ownership and control of media, use of media by political parties, public perception of media as unbiased source of information, the emergence of 'new' media as an important factor in the area of democratic governance. The paper will focus its analysis on how changes in the production and consumption of mass media have affected political culture and the way political parties mobilize for politics and elections.



**Bionote:** Mridul Chowdhury is the CEO and Founder of mPower Social Enterprises, a global group of business units. He is also a filmmaker most known for his film titled “Deshantori” and co-founder of Jagoree and Member of Drishtipat's Writer's Collective. He has worked as a researcher and consultant in many developing countries on development issues. Mridul Chowdhury completed an MPA/International Development from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government as a Dean's Fellow. He has a BS degree majoring in Economics, Mathematics, and Political Science and a minor in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin.

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## Naomi Hossain

**Abstract:** Bangladeshi politics is structurally, systemically 'unruly' it is through the breaking of the rules of democratic engagement that politics proceeds as a matter of course, but also through which much pro-poor political change occurs. Why should this be the case? To what extent is the unruliness of Bangladeshi politics unique? And if political action is structurally unruly so what? Drawing on theories of contentious politics, among other perspectives, this paper reviews the landscape of contemporary political culture in Bangladesh. It selectively explores issues in patterns of political culture ranging from elite contention around central matters of the constitution and political competition (elite settlements) down to more localised forms of popular resistance and mass political culture.



**Bionote:** Naomi Hossain is a Research Fellow, Participation, Power and Social Change Team, Institute of Development Studies, at the University of Sussex. She was previously the Coordinator, Governance Research Group at BRAC Research and Evaluation Division, Bangladesh and Staff Economist at BRAC. She has done her DPhil in Development Studies, IDS, from the University of Sussex, MSc(Econ), in Social Anthropology & Political Science from London School of Economics and BA (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Somerville College, Oxford University. Some of her significant publications are:

*'Rude Accountability: Informal Pressures on Frontline Bureaucrats in Bangladesh'*.

*Development and Change (2010) 41 (5) 907-928 CV Naomi Hossain 2010 in 'Invisible impacts and lost opportunities: evidence of the global recession in developing countries'*

*Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (forthcoming in 2010; lead author, with co-authors R. Fillaili and G. Lubaale) 'A 'lost generation'?*

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## Navine Murshid

**Abstract:** While there is much to celebrate as we reflect on the forty years of governance in Bangladesh, what remains a dark spot among the achievements is the limited understanding we have of various marginalized groups as political actors. In recent years, there have been some attempts to involve minority groups *pahari* populations, non-Muslim populations etc. into the political arena. However, one group that hardly received any attention is the refugee population - 10 million in number - that had fled



to India in 1971 during Bangladesh's Liberation War. While there has been some work on the plight of the Mujibnagar Government and key political figures, what is missing from such studies is the voice of the common man that left everything behind to find refuge in an impoverished, neighboring state. We have little knowledge of how their experience affected their political views which would then impact (1) their expectations from the newly-formed state, and (2) their voting behavior in subsequent years. This paper fills these gaps through a survey of 700 respondents from four districts, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, and Dhaka. Of the respondents, 350 were in various locations in India for at least parts of the War, while the other 350 remained in Bangladesh. This paper provides a comparative analysis of the two groups to reveal the differences in behavior that arise due to the difference in experiences. More specifically, the study assesses the political preference of the 'refugee-group' and the 'non-refugee group' in the present day in terms of identifying (1) voting patterns and (2) the factors that form the voting calculus, through empirical analysis.

**Bionote:** Navine Murshid is an Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science at Colgate University. She has accomplished PhD and MA in Political Science, University of Rochester, USA, and BA in Economics and Govt. with Honors from Lawrence University, USA. Some of her significant publications are:

2011. "Hurting the Host: Refugee-related Violence in Bangladesh" in *Democracy in Bangladesh: Political Dimensions of National Development*. Edited by Zillur R. Khan and Syed Saad Andaleeb.

Harvard University. 2010. "The Dynamics of Refugee-related Violence in South Asia". *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*: 12(2). 2000. "Bangladesh Development Assistance: A Dialogue among Actors," *Development* 43 (4): 61-65

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## Nicola Margaret Banks

**Abstract:** Shifting population dynamics in Bangladesh mean that the country is at the verge of an important tipping point: within this generation, Bangladesh's poor population will become predominantly urban. Until now, the government of Bangladesh has been unable to meet the urban challenges, but given the scale and severity of urban poverty, the country now faces momentous governance challenges. Current systems of governance have received heavy criticism for being inadequate in terms of urban poverty reduction, including accusations that all governments since Independence have been “anti-urban poor”.



**Bionote:** Nicola Margaret Banks is the Head of Research and Evaluation Unit at BRAC Uganda and Research Fellow at The Brooks World Poverty Institute at University of Manchester. She was previously affiliated with Social Development Group as Research Assistant. She has done her Masters in Development Planning from University of Queensland, Australia and BA (Hons) in Economics, Politics and Philosophy from York University, UK. She has been awarded the “Peter Wood Memorial Prize in Planning for Overall Achievement” and “Dean' Commendation for High Achievement”, by University of Queensland, Australia. Her significant publications are:

*Banks, N., 2011, Urbanisation and its Implications on Foreign Aid: A Focus on South Asia, paper commissioned for the United Nations University (UNU-Wider), Helsinki.*

*Banks, N., M. Roy and D. Hulme, 2011, 'Neglecting the Urban Poor in Bangladesh: Research, Policy and Action in the Context of Climate Change', accepted for publication in forthcoming Environment and Urbanization (in press, to be published October 2011).*

*Banks, N. and C. O. N. Moser, 2010, Assets and social protection in developing countries, the Ford Foundation, New York. Banks, N., 2010,*

*Employment and mobility among low-income urban households in Dhaka, Bangladesh, conference paper accepted to “Ten years of poverty: What have we learned since 2000 and what should we do 2010-2020?”, 8-10 September 2010*

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## Nizam Ahmed

**Abstract:** This paper explores the development and decline of Parliament in Bangladesh, especially since the beginning of the 'new democratic era' (1991- ). For nearly two decades after the independence of Bangladesh, the Parliament remained a marginal actor, lacking any real scope to influence the policy process for several reasons, of which two appear to be very important: first, most of the parliaments lacked legitimacy as the elections were alleged to have been rigged; and second, most of them also lacked

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Available

adequate representation of the opposition. The 'recent' parliaments (those elected since 1991), which are more representative in partisan composition than those elected in the past, and have enjoyed greater legitimacy than their predecessors, have introduced some major structural and procedural reforms have the potential to upgrade the status of Parliament to at least to a 'secondary' actor. Noteworthy among the reforms are the: restoration of the parliamentary systems of government, establishment of an independent Parliament Secretariat, introduction of prime minister's question time (PMQT), tradition of sending government bills to committees after the first reading for scrutiny, strengthening of the standing committees on the ministries through changing their composition and broadening their scope of activity, and bringing the Parliament within public domain by introducing the provision of live broadcast/telecast of parliamentary proceedings. The Parliament now compares favourably with similar legislatures in many countries in terms of its potential to contribute to democratic consolidation; it has also now better capacity to affect policy outcome. Moreover, the trend set in by one parliament has been retained by the one succeeding it, thereby creating a hope for its institutionalisation.

**Bionote:** Nizam Ahmed is a Professor of Public Administration at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. He holds a Ph. D. from the University of Melbourne, Australia & Masters in Social Sciences (Administration) degree from the University of Tasmania, Australia. He has authored/edited a number of books and published widely on local government, party politics and parliamentary behaviour in scholarly local and international journals. His significant publications are:

*The Working of Parliamentary Committees in Westminster Systems: Lessons for Bangladesh* (co-edited with ATM. Obaidullah) (UPL, 2007)

*Bureaucracy and Local Politics in Bangladesh: A Study in Roles and Relationships* (VDM Verlag, 2010).

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## Pierre Landell-Mills

**Abstract:** Political economy studies aimed at explaining why certain countries have progressed faster than others have multiplied in recent years (*viz: Barrington Moore, Douglas North, Acemoglu, Moore/Unsworth etc.*). An emerging paradigm has the following main elements. Using the terminology of North et al, countries at different levels of development are seen as lying along a continuum from 'the natural state' (least developed countries that are mostly failed states where competing groups prey on each other) to 'limited access states' (e.g. Bangladesh) to 'open access states' (the most developed democratic states). There is no inevitable or natural progression along the continuum, but generally it may be argued that the more developed the country the closer it is to having 'an open access state'.



**Bionote:** Pierre Landell Mills is the Principal of the Policy Practice Ltd. and Director, Partnership for Transparency Fund. He has previous working experiences as a team member in Government-Donors joint government assessment, Bangladesh, President for Partnership in Transparency International Fund, Consultant for World Bank & UNDP. He has completed his Diploma in French Studies from Sorbonne, Paris, MA Economics from Cambridge University, UK, BA Economics from Cambridge University, UK and Senior Managers' Course from Harvard Business School, USA. His significant publications are:

*Politics and Growth, Development Policy Review, 2009, 27 (1): 5-31 (jointly with Gareth Williams, Alex Duncan and Sue Unsworth)*

*Making the New Political Economy Perspective more operationally relevant for development agencies, Policy Practice Brief 2, 2007*

*Building a Better World, Human Rights and Human Welfare, Vol. 4 2004*

*Coming to Grips with Governance: lessons of experience, Journal of Contemporary China (2003), 12(35), 357-371*

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## Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman

**Abstract:** During recent years, the concepts of “good governance” and “pro-poor growth” have taken considerable space in development discourses in Bangladesh. Some researchers, however, have noted that governance indicators that refer to transparent political systems, civil liberties and political freedom, tend to be conducive to poverty reduction, but the evidence is rather mixed, and the relationship of these variables with growth and distribution still remains unclear. For about a decade, Bangladesh



has experimented with a series of new approaches and institutional framework for addressing governance issues and poverty. Bangladesh has shown impressive record in social development, poverty reduction and accelerated economic growth for over three decades. Recent reviews, however, show that the momentum of growth has slowed down somewhat, and the course of social development is entering a more challenging phase. There is also strong criticism for not maintaining a comprehensive approach to addressing issues of governance and poverty. In this contextual background, this paper attempts to address the following critical questions: Does the conventional conceptual framework of governance adequately address the issues and concerns of poverty?

**Bionote:** Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman is a Professor at the Department of Public Administration at the University of Dhaka. He was also the Chairman and Professor of Dhaka University, Department of Development Studies. Aminuzzaman was also a visiting professor at the Department of Political Science, North Dakota University, USA, Project Management Consultant at the Office of the President, Republic of Seychelles, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, University of Dar-es-salaam, Republic of Tanzania and played the role of management consultant/institutional analyst in various international organizations like UNDP, ILO, World Bank, USAID, CIDA, UNICEF, DFID and others. He has his Post Doctoral Research Fellow from North Dakota University, USA, PhD in Public Administration, University of Philippines and MA in Public Administration, Dhaka University. Aminuzzaman is associated with American Society of Public Administration, Bangladesh Economic Association, World Institute of Development Studies, Northern American Association of Development Management and many others.

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## Sam Wong

**Abstract:** This paper focuses on Bangladeshi local elites, *Sardars*. They are land and fishing equipment owners. Owing to a lack of formal credit facilities, many poor Bangladeshis depend on them for informal credit. Studies suggest that poor people are exploited by high interest rates. Their rising influence is also related to the national political systems in Bangladesh. Self-reliant village government was introduced in the 1980s. The problems of Gram Sarkar, the lowest unit of administration, are that it is institutionally and financially weak and poorly managed. This gives *Sardars* opportunities to take the political vacuum for their own interest: some of them became the leaders of Gram Sarkar while others are influenced by the local politics by mobilising their personal networks.



**Bionote:** Sam Wong is a Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Bradford, UK. He has previously worked as a journalist in Ming Pao Daily News, Hong Kong. He accomplished PhD in Development Studies from University of Bradford, UK, Masters of Arts in Development Studies from Bradford University, UK and Bachelors of Arts in Geography from University of Hong Kong. His significant publications are:

*Wong, S. When Hard Technology Meets Soft Power Implications of Sustainable Technology for Climate Change and Livelihood Improvement. London: Anthem Press*

*Wong, S. (2009) (edited with E. Kolig and V. Angeles) Identity in Crossroad Civilizations: Ethnicity, Nationalism and Globalism in Asia. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. [USBN 9789089641274]*

*Wong, S. (2007) Exploring 'Unseen' Social Capital in Community Participation. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. [ISBN 9789053560341]*

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## Sanae Ito

**Abstract:** Donors have long been keen to reform local governance in low-income countries to realize people's rights at the grass roots. In Bangladesh, donors and the Government are trying to do this, in part, through enhancing the capacity of the Union Parishad (UP). It is understood that the UP should serve as the effective channel for bringing the state closer to local communities and delivering better government services to people at the grass roots.



The Participatory Rural Development Project (PRDP) implemented by the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) with technical assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) operates along this principle, but with a specific focus on strengthening the linkage between UP and local communities. Recognizing that people living in villages lack an effective organization to represent them vis-à-vis UP, the project encourages them to organize themselves into 'village committees' headed by traditional leaders (*matabbors*).

**Bionote:** Sanae Ito is an Associate Professor at the University of Nagoya in the Department of International Cooperation. She has previous working experiences in University of Bath, International Development Research Institute, JICA and John Swire & Sons. She has completed her DPhil and MPhil from the University of Development Studies, University of Sussex, MA in Sociology from Keio University, Japan and BA in Liberal Arts from International Christian University, Japan. Some of her significant publications are:

2010. *Kokusai Kaihatsugaku Nyumon*. Tokyo: Keiso Shobo.

2009. 'Globalisation and Tojokoku-Noson (Globalisation and Rural Areas in Developing Countries)'. In S. Otsubo, ed. *Globalisation-to Kaihatsu (Globalisation and Development)*. pp. 419-440. Tokyo: Keiso Shobo.

2008 'Cambodian Microfinance: A Case of Successful Commercialisation?' *Forum of International Development Studies*. 37. pp.19-33.

2007. 'Export Competitiveness and Pro-Poor Growth in the Shrimp Industry in Bangladesh'. *Enterprise Development & Microfinance*. Vol.18 No.2/3.

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## Sanjay Bhardwaj

**Abstract:** Identity is an 'essentially contested concept' in political theory. Yet, no matter how huge and wide the disagreements are regarding national identity, its vigor cannot be underestimated. It is the fulcrum around which modern civilization has grown. Millions have been mobilized in its name and millions more continue to cherish it. What lies beneath identity is a moot point: language, religion, culture, shared history, ethnicity or citizenship have been variously upheld to be the foundation that gives rise to the feeling of nationhood. What constitutes the 'imagination' of a nation is therefore debatable. The problem gets even more acute when we deal with the developing world with a heterogeneous population. With the disappearance of the colonial master previously, the veneer of glue that welded these disparate communities precariously into a nation started giving way to numerous fissiparous tendencies. Nations plunged into the vortex of either military dictatorships, or religious resurgence due to the erosion of the anti-colonial nationalistic hegemony and the crisis of legitimacy which followed was tackled either by harping back on primordial appeals like religion, or ethnicity, or by resorting to the discipline and repression of military dispensations, or often by the above factors working in conjunction. These are briefly the problems that post-colonial states face everywhere. The study of constructing identity frontiers in Bangladesh is particularly challenging to the governance. Bangladesh has the distinction of having undergone two national movements one in 1947 which created Pakistan and the other in 1971 which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh in a short span of 25 years.



**Bionote:** Sanjay Bhardwaj is an Assistant Professor of South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). He has accomplished PhD in South Asian Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), MPhil in South Asian Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), M.A. in Political Science from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India and B.A. in Political Science, Economics and English Literature from Rajasthan College, Jaipur, India. Sanjay Bhardwaj won the Asia Fellow award at University of Dhaka & Sir Ratan Fellow Award at Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK.

His major publication is the **Bangladesh-US Relations: From Cooperation to Partnership**

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## Shahidur Rahman

**Abstract :** Lack of effective governance presents the key challenge in implementing development programs in Bangladesh. Governance problems are evident in social safety net (SSN) programs in the form of leakages and corruption. Often, corrupt practices are manifested through: (i) politicization of beneficiary selection; (ii) misappropriation of government allocation; and (iii) lack of transparency of the bureaucratic hierarchy. In general, examination of the design and implementation of these programs reveal that bureaucracy plays the pivotal role, while local government is involved only during the service delivery phase. In this paper, it is argued that greater civic engagement is likely to alleviate the issues mentioned above by enhancing transparency and accountability.



**Bionote:** Shahidur Rahman is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University. He was previously a Lecturer at the Department of Sociology at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology and Research Assistants at the Department of Management and W.A.G.E. Center for Work and Society, in the Global Economy, Monash University, Australia. He has accomplished his Doctorate in Philosophy in Sociology from University of Monash, Australia, and Masters & Bachelors in Social Science from University of Dhaka. He has won National Merit Scholarship, Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dhaka University Scholarship, International Graduate and Post Graduate Scholarship from Monash University and others. He is currently affiliated with International Sociological Association. Some of his significant publications are:

*Return migration of high skilled professionals in Bangladesh. Conference Abstract published in the XVII ISA World Conference of Sociology in cooperation with ProQuest and CSA Sociological Abstracts. Gothenburg, 11-17 July, 2010.*

*Brain-Gain in Bangladesh: What makes it possible? International Journal of Innovation, Management and Technology. Vol. 1, No. 2, June 2010.*

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## Sharif Ahmed Mukul

**Abstract:** Good governance in natural resource management (NRM) is one of the most crucial issues in tropical developing countries that is often inappropriately embedded in national policies and political agendas. It is, in fact, even more important for countries like Bangladesh with exceptionally high pressure and dependence on its natural resources for sustaining rural livelihoods. Globally, nowadays, good governance is considered as one of the key factors for achieving the goal of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Bangladesh, of late has responded to that global zeal by involving local communities in the management of the country's declining forest and other natural resources. The colonial legacy of the forestry sector of Bangladesh was planned and managed as interim projects through donors' prescriptions.



**Bionote:** Sharif Ahmed Mukul is a Research Fellow at Centre for Research on Land-Use Sustainability at Majjdee, Bangladesh. He was previously a Research Fellow at East-West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii and Technical Consultant at Development Alternatives International, Washington, USA. He has BSc (Hons) & MSc in Forestry from Shahjalal University of Science & Technology. He is affiliated with Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (President, Bangladesh Chapter); World Association of Young Scientists; IUFRO Landscape Ecology Working Group; IUFRO Task Force on Forests and Human Health; Asia-Pacific Forestry Researcher's Database, IUCN World Commission on Protected Area (WCPA).

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## Sumaiya Khair

**Abstract:** It is often contended that human rights tend to be better protected under non-partisan caretaker governments than politically elected governments given its mandate, composition and freedom from interference from vested interest groups. This paper attempts to examine the validity of this presumption by evaluating the status of human rights under the immediate past caretaker government (2006-2008), the BNP government prior to the 2006-2008 caretaker government and the Awami League government following the December 2008 parliamentary elections to date. However, for purposes of clarity and appreciation of perceived shifts in legal protection of human rights at different stages of the country's political history and in order to make comparative assessment of the outcomes, the paper also refers, where relevant, to the human rights scenario during periods preceding the aforesaid regimes.



**Bionote:** Sumaiya Khair is a Professor and Head of the Department of Law at Dhaka University. She is an editor of “**the Hague Journal on the Rule of Law**” and “**the Journal of Law & Development**”. She holds executive positions in a number of research and professional bodies, namely, Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), Society for the Study of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Bangladesh, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), ActionAid International Bangladesh, and Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB). Sumaiya Khair has worked as a consultant in UN Agencies ILO and International Development Partners. Her significant publications are:

*Legal Empowerment for the Poor and the Disadvantaged: Strategies, Achievements and Challenges. Experiences from Bangladesh*

*2008, Child Migration for Work*

*2008 Women in the Labour Market. Impact and Implications of Labour Law, 2002 (co-authored).*

*Her latest works include Revisiting Child Labour. Gender, Culture, Economics and Human Rights.*

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## Tapan Kumar Nath

**Abstract:** Governance arrangement is one of the most important factors that leads to successful and long-term sustainable collaborative natural resource management (NRM). It ensures power imbalances among actors, build actor's capacity, improve cross-sectoral linkages, create more transparent, accountable and inclusive decision-making processes by setting norms and good codes of practices. History of forest management, particularly in developing countries, indicates that failure of many community-based NRM projects were mainly due to the absence of governance practices. Although governance is considered an important aspect of sustainable NRM, few studies can be seen to empirically test this notion. This study, drawing information from a participatory forestry (PF) project, examined the relationship between local level governance and development of forest resources. More specifically, it investigated how local level governance influences the achievement of PF project outcomes. It analyzes equity, accountability, transparency, information flow, responsiveness and participation as principles of governance. Findings indicate that the project authority could not pull off adequately in reaching all three project objectives-settlement, development of plantations and socio-economic development of the participants. Low level of participation, lack of accountability and transparency in handling project money, gap in communication and information flow between authority and participants, presence of irresponsiveness of project staff negatively affected the outcomes. Moreover, due to dearth of equity, elite people captured most of the project benefits. Suggestion is made to improve governance situation through the formation of social capital for better project outcomes.

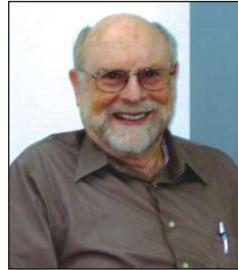


**Bionote:** Tapan Kumar Nath is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Environmental Science & Forestry, University of Chittagong. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, Japan in 2007 and was a JSPS post-doctoral fellow in the same university for two years (2007-09). Tapan Nath was also a visiting faculty at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and was a visiting scholar of University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. He has extensively published on collaborative management of natural resources in prestigious journals. His current research includes co-management of forest resources, forest governance, social capital and community livelihood analysis.

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## Theodore Thomas

**Abstract:** At least 17 reform commissions and their sponsors have failed to bring significant administrative reform in Bangladesh in its forty years of sovereign existence. None of these proposed reforms would likely have reordered the relationship between government and civil society in the direction of more responsive governance and better service to citizens. A coherent development concept distinctly different from the dominant model exists—the ideas of 'participation' and of the 'stakeholder'; the writings of countless academics and practitioners; and, alternative action strategies outlined in programs called “Implementing Policy Change”, SCALE as developed by GreenCom, and most recently the “Upside Down View of Governance”, among many others.



**Bionote:** Theodore Thomas is an adviser to the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University. He was previously a consultant to BEI-IGS Consortium, Bangladesh, Consultant to the UNDP, Sierra Leone and also Consultant to UNDP, World Bank and many others in Bangladesh. He was also a Senior Staff, Institute of Public Administration, New York, Coordinator IPA, Indonesia, Senior Adviser to the Govt. of Indonesia, National Development Planning Agency and Lecturer at California State University at Fresno, School of Business, Mogadishu. He has accomplished PhD in Political Science and Public Administration, U.C.L.A. and has done his Masters in Political Science and Bachelors in History and Education from Duke University. He is currently affiliated with the James P. Grant Trust, Washington D.C., EcoVentures International, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation, Development Management Network and United Nations Association. Some of his significant writings include:

*"Designing Implementation Mechanisms for Externally Funded Development Projects: The Search for Capacity Building and Sustainability."*

*"An Institutional Strategy for Development Action: The Process of Deinstitutionalizing Project Thinking."*

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