

GEOPOLITICAL STUDIES OF BANGLADESH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BRIDGE-CONCEPT RELATED TO THE ASEAN AND SAARC COUNTRIES

*This thesis is submitted in the fulfillment of requirement for the degree of the
Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Geography and Environment
University of Dhaka*

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April, 2015

Note of Dedication

With best respects and regards, I gladly dedicate this research work to my parents—

**Mr. Mohammad Alfaz Uddin
and
Mrs. Fatema Khatun**

Certification

I certify that I have read this thesis of Md. Abu Hassan Faruk entitled **"GEOPOLITICAL STUDIES OF BANGLADESH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BRIDGE-CONCEPT RELATED TO THE ASEAN AND SAARC COUNTRIES"**, which submitted in the fulfilment of requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Geography and Environment of the University of Dhaka. In my opinion, it is fully adequate in scope and quality as a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This is his original own research work.

Date: 23rd April, 2015

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Declaration

I, Md. Abu Hassan Faruk declare that the work presented in the thesis entitled **"GEOPOLITICAL STUDIES OF BANGLADESH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BRIDGE-CONCEPT RELATED TO THE ASEAN AND SAARC COUNTRIES"** is my own work in the fulfilment of requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. I submitted this thesis in the Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka which includes the study outcome of work done of my own. I declare that I did not submit in whole or in part of it to any other university for the achievement of any other diploma or degree. The length of this thesis including appendices, references, tables, and equations is approximately 202 Pages, 65,779 words; and it contains 32 tables (in the text and appendices) and 24 figures.

Date:

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(Md. Abu Hassan Faruk)

ABSTRACT

The present thesis attempts to comprehend the potentialities and significances of Bangladesh in bridging between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries in geopolitical considerations. Moreover, it highlights the geo-strategic, geo-economical, and geopolitical aspects of Bangladesh with a transition of political power of different dynasties and governments that provides important physical, social and cultural features of the country.

Bangladesh, one of the potential countries of the south and the south-east Asia, plays a vital geopolitical role for its special geographical location in the zones. This country bears a convenient geopolitical, geo-economical and geo-strategies importance among the regional and international blocks, such as ASEAN, SAARC, ESCAP, and CIRDAP. The SAARC countries contain about one-third of the total population of the world, and the ASEAN and the SAARC countries contain about half of the total population of the world. Hence, the Bangladesh is bridging between the SAARC (north-west, west and south-west of Bangladesh) and the ASEAN (south-east) regional blocks in Asia. Subsequently, Bangladesh is bordered by Indian states – West Bengal to the west, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura to the north and east, Mizoram to the east, the Bay of Bengal to the south and a small border is demarcated by the northeastern boundary of Myanmar (Arakan state). These critical, complex and significant geographical location influence the internal and external geopolitical phenomena of the country too. Consequently, the changing situation of world power signifies the South Asian geo-strategies, geo-economics and geopolitical scenarios that influences significantly due to some subsequent vital factors. First, Bangladesh is considered as the fourth largest Muslim country in the world. Second, the location of Bangladesh is within the geo-strategies frontier of India, a south Asian potential powerful and largest country. Third, it is very nearer to emerging superpower, China and '*Emerging Economic Tigers*', Indonesia and Malaysia. Thus, geopolitically, geo-economically, and geo-strategically the significance of Bangladesh is immense.

Finally, Bangladesh has an international communication route for the development of the south-east Asian region. Therefore, this study bears a huge academic as well as applied significance. In this research work, some quantitative techniques e.g. statistical analysis, data-table analysis, comparison diagram analysis are applied in order to examine the relationship between different geo-political variables and parameters regarding the mathematical factors analysis and the test of reliability for achieving and fulfilling the goals of the study. In brief, this study recommends some policies to make an effective plan, take necessary measures for the national security, and fulfill a systematic guideline to develop the countries significant enormously for Bangladesh.

Key words: *land-bridge, corridor, geo-strategies, geo-economics, Transshipment, geopolitics, colonialism, world power, invasion, security concern, boundary conflicts, new colonialism, economical and cultural aggression, clash of civilization*

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAPP	:	Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace
ABM	:	Anti Ballistic Missile
AD	:	Anne Dominic
AC	:	After Christ
ADAB	:	Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh
ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
AFTA	:	Asian Free Trade Area
ANC	:	African National Congress
ANOVA	:	Analysis of Variances
ANZUS	:	Australia, New Zealand and United States (defence pact)
APEC	:	Asia- Pacific Economic Co-operation
ASEAN	:	Association of the South- East Asian Nations
ATTF	:	All Tripura Tiger Force
BAIRA	:	Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agents
BBS	:	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BC	:	Before Christ
BCSIR	:	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
BDR	:	Bangladesh Rifles (existing: Border Guard Bangladesh)
BEPZA	:	Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority
BER	:	Bangladesh Export
BGB	:	Border Guard Bangladesh (former Bangladesh Rifles)
BGS	:	British Geological Survey
BISS	:	Bangladesh Institute for International Strategic Studies
BIMSTEC	:	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Co- operation
BMD	:	Bangladesh Metrological Department
BENELUX	:	Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg (Economic Union)
BIPSS	:	Bangladesh Institute of Pace and Security Studies
BSF	:	Border Security Force (India)
CBI	:	Central Bureau of Investigation
CHTs	:	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CIA	:	Central Intelligence Agency

CID	:	Criminal Investigation Department
CIRDAP	:	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CIS	:	Commonwealth of Independent States
CNN	:	Cable News Network
CPI (M)	:	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
CTBT	:	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
e.g.	:	Example gratia (for example)
et. al.	:	et. alia (and others)
EEZ	:	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFTA	:	European Free Trade Association
E-mail	:	Electronic Mailing
ECA	:	Ecologically Critical Area
EPZ	:	Export Processing Zone
ESCAP	:	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBI	:	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBCCI:		Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry
G-8	:	Group of Eight
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
GSB	:	Geological Survey of Bangladesh
GATT	:	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GCC	:	Gulf Control Council
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GMB	:	Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna
GMT	:	Greenwich Mean Time
GNP	:	Gross National Product
GPS	:	Global Positioning System
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IBJRC	:	Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission
ICJ	:	International Court of Justice
IDPs	:	Internally Displaced Persons
i.e.	:	idest (that is)
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
IMCO	:	Inter- government Maritime Consultative Organization

IMF	:	International Monetary Fund
INTERPOL	:	International Criminal Police Organization
IPCC	:	Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change Reublican
IRA	:	Irish Republic Army
IRC	:	International Red Cross
IRN	:	International Rivers Network
ITLOS	:	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
JICA	:	Japan International Co-operation Agency
JKLF	:	Jammu- Kashmir Liberation Front
JMB	:	Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh
KGB	:	Komitet Gosudarstveunony Bizo Pasosti (Russian Secret Police)
KKK	:	Ku Klux Klan (US Secret Society Anti Negro, Anti Jewish)
KYKL	:	Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup
LBA	:	Land Boundary Agreement
LDC	:	Least Development Country
LeT	:	Lashkar-e-Taiba
LTTE	:	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MSL	:	Mean Sea Level
NAFTA	:	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAM	:	Non-align Movement
NAPCC	:	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NASA	:	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO	:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDFB	:	National Democratic Front of Bodoland
NEFA	:	North East Frontier Agency
NEP	:	National Energy Plan
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
NLFT	:	National Liberation Front of Tripura
NPT	:	Nuclear Non – Proliferation Treaty
OAPEC	:	Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OBE	:	Order of the British Empire
OECD	:	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	:	Organization of Islamic Cooperation/Country
OPEC	:	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

PIB	:	Petroleum Information Bureau
PLA	:	People's Liberation Army
PLO	:	Palestine Liberation Organization
PM	:	Post Meridian
PPP	:	Peoples' Party of Pakistan
PTI	:	Press Trust of India
RAW	:	Research and Analysis Wing
SAPTA	:	South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement
START	:	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SOB	:	Survey of Bangladesh
SPARRSO	:	Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization
SSC	:	Secondary School Certificate
SWOT	:	Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats
TCF	:	Trillion Cubic Feet
ULFA	:	United Liberation Front of Assam
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNCIP	:	United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan
UNCTAD	:	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children's Emergence Fund (United Nations Children's Fund)
UNIPOM	:	United Nations India- Pakistan Observation Mission
US	:	United States
USA	:	United States of America
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
WTO	:	World Trade Organization

Physical Units

cm	:	Centimeter
cm/s	:	Cubic Meter per Second
km	:	Kilometer
m	:	Meter
mm	:	Millimeter
M T	:	Million Tons
sq km	:	Square Kilometer
sq m	:	Square Meter

Illustration of some local Terminologies

Geo-economy	:	A study of economic conditions that are influenced by geographic factors.
Geopolitics	:	An art and practice of using international political power over a pre-arranged territory. It is a Nazi doctrine on the geographic, economic, and political needs of German to invade and seize of other lands.
Geo-strategy	:	It is a vital direction of a state's foreign policy, and national security which deals with national safety, foreign policy and national security concern thorough geographical factors.
Keokradong	:	A peak with an altitude of 986m (3,235 ft) in Bangladesh. It is considers the third highest mountain of the country which is only 30 km away from Ruma town.
Lage	:	Position, Location.
Lalfoze	:	Red Force
Land-Bridge	:	A connecting piece of land between two continents, enabling animals to pass from one continent to the other.
Nazi	:	A form of fascism that incorporates biological racism and anti-Semitism, Nazism originally developed from the influences of pan-Germanism.
Raum	:	Space

- Shanti Bhahini : Peace Force. It is a military wing of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti, the CHTs, Bangladesh
- Sinic : It is pertaining to the Chinese and allied races which is influenced by Chinese
- Sundarban : The largest distinct forestland of tidal halophytic mangroves in the world. The UNESCO declared it as World Heritage Site. Bangladesh covers 60% of this forest and rest of 40% is belonging to West Bengal, India.
- Verdicists : One of the proper name for Hindu.

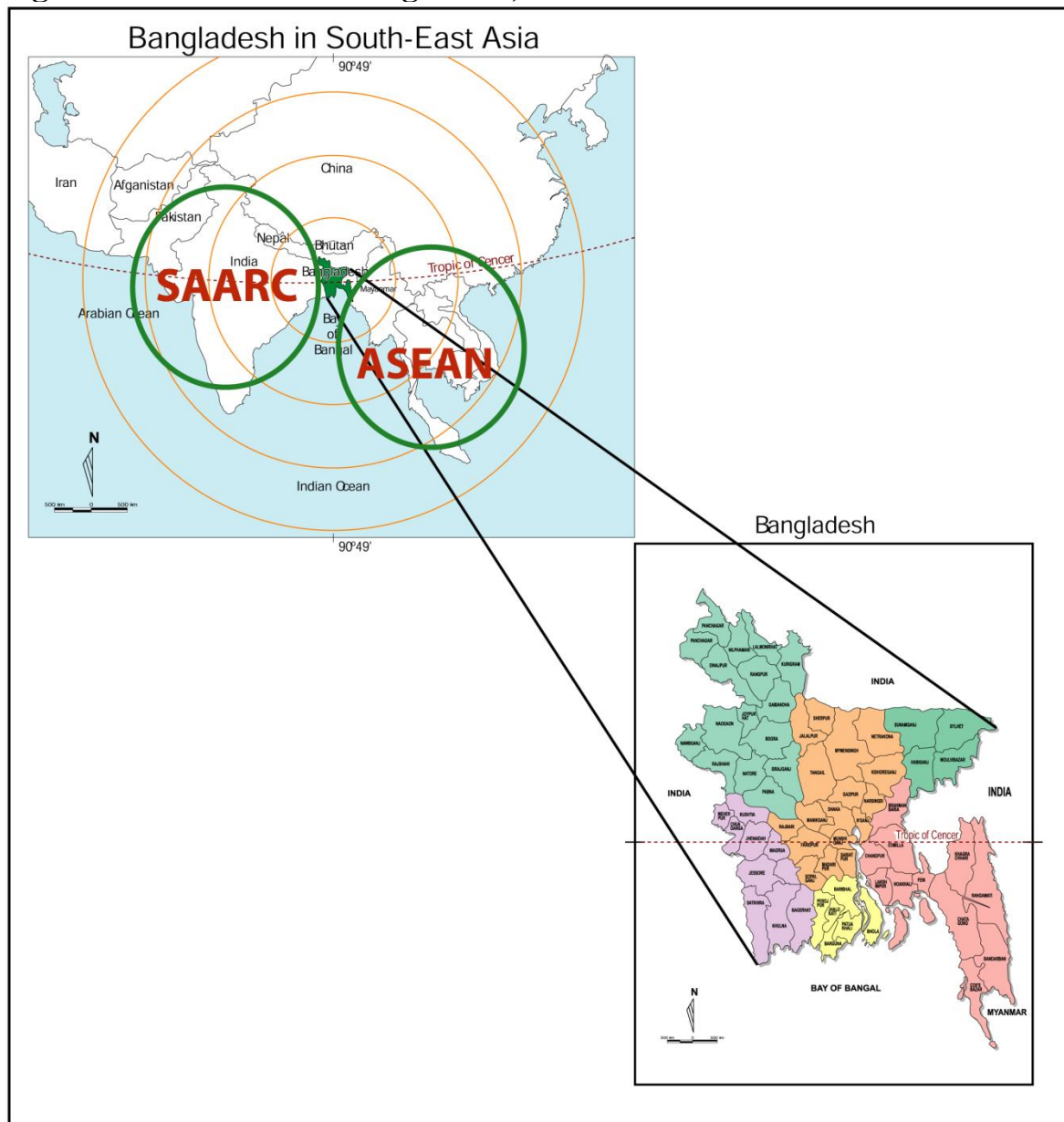
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1: Bangladesh: General Considerations

Bangladesh is a budding and a promising country for its geographical position between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries, which bears a vital location significance surrounding by India, a big neighbour with nuclear power, near to China, a future superpower, and next to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore— the '*Emerging Economic Tigers*'. It is a developing nation of about 150 million people which occupies an area of 1, 47,570 sq. km. The country achieved her victory and sovereign on December 16, 1971 thorough a nine months long blood-shading war starting with the declaration of the independence on March 26, 1971. Dhaka is its capital. Bangladesh occupies a pivotal position between the ASEAN and the SAARC blocks, and it bridges between these socio-economic and cultural cooperative regional groups of the south-east Asia.

1.2: Study Area

The present study area is Bangladesh and its location significance as bridging between the ASEAN and the SAARC, two regional rising economic blocks of South Asia. The three sides – the west, the north, and the east of Bangladesh is surrounded by India, and a small boundary shares with Myanmar to the south-east. Moreover, Bangladesh is only 100 km far away from the future superpower, China thorough Shiliguri Corridor. It also closes to '*Emerging Economic Tigers*' — Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. Subsequently, this country is at the 'gateway' of Indian subcontinent where the Meghna estuaries play a significant role for its inland water transportation. This location also facilitates the Chittagong seaport and the Chalna seaport which work for an external import and export substantial duties of the country. Consequently, the geographical location includes a territorial boundary, a land and maritime position which influence this land. Therefore, this study bears an enormous significance in the field of geopolitics, an applied branch of Political Geography.

Figure 1.1: Location of Bangladesh, SAARC and ASEAN

Source : Faruk, 2009.

1.3: Geographical Considerations

1.3.1: Local Settings

Bangladesh is located at the south-eastern part of the Asia between $20^{\circ}34'$ and $26^{\circ}38'$ north latitude, and $88^{\circ}01'$ and $92^{\circ}41'$ east longitude which covers an area of about 1, 57,570 sq km. Highest extension of its width is about 440 km in east-west direction and length 760 km in north, north-west-south, south-east direction (Rob, 1999). This country occupies the south-eastern edge of the Ganges Basin and occurs to the northern apex of the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh has the inland sea ports facilities of Chittagong port and Chalna port, which maintain an easy and a safe maritime connection with other parts of the world.

1.3.2: General Settings

Bangladesh is surrounded by West Bengal (India) on the west; West Bengal, Assam, and Meghalaya (India) on the north; Assam, Tripura, Mizoram (India), and Myanmar on the east, and the Bay of Bengal on the south. The total length of land border of the country is about 4392.570 km among this 4131.912(80.88%) km border is shared with India, the rest 260.658(5.10%) km with Myanmar, and the Bay of Bengal 716.005 (14.02%) km (marine boundary).

Table-1.1: Distribution of Territorial Boundary of Bangladesh

Country/Place	Territory Length (km)	Territorial Boundary (%)
India	4131.912	80.88
Myanmar	260.658	5.10
Total Int. Boundary	4392.570	85.98
Sea Boundary	716.005	14.02
Total	5,108.575	100

Source: Survey of Bangladesh, 1990, Rob, 2010.

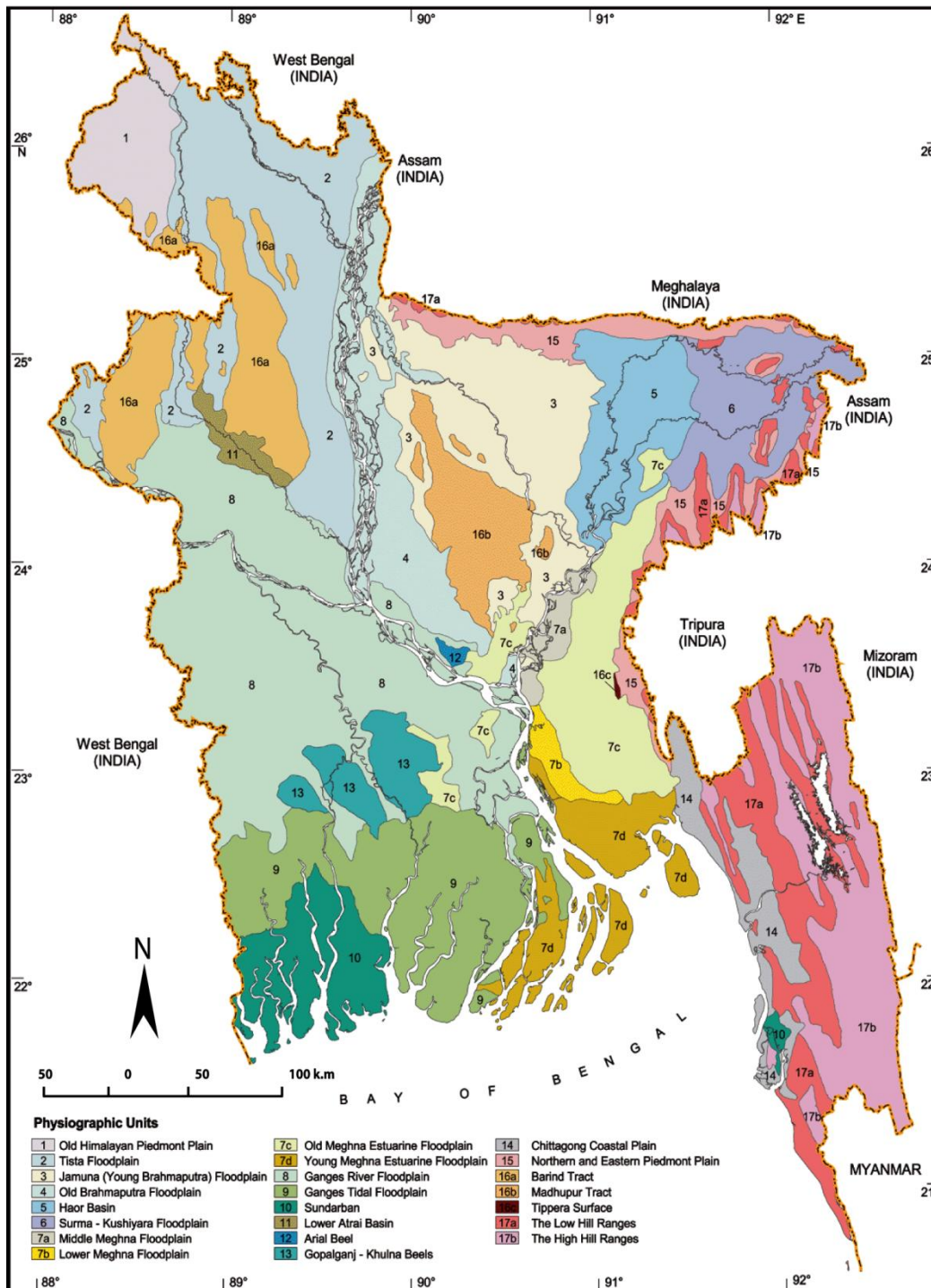
In addition, the edge of territorial water is 12 nautical miles (22.22 km) the area of the high seas extending to 200 nautical miles (370.40 km) of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which measures from the baselines. The surface configuration of this country includes the plain land (agricultural land) 60%, Pleistocene traces 4%, tertiary hills 10 %, water bodies 10 % , and forest 16%.

1.3.3: Physiography

Most of the land formation of Bangladesh occupies a low-lying alluvial delta of the Ganges-Barhmaputra-Meghna rivers valleys. Moreover, a numerous rivers with tributaries and distributaries enrich the land formation of the south and south western parts of the country. The Ganges unites with the Jamuna (main channel of Brahmaputra) at Chandpur, and afterwards, it joins the Meghna to fall into the Bay of Bengal. The land formation process helps to deposit the river loads e.g. sand, silt, clay, small particles of rocks, and minerals, and it creates this fertile plains at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal. In addition, it formed the largest delta of the world.

This monotony of flatness has relieved this country in to two elevated tracts e.g. Madhupur and Barind tracts, and scattered hills and hillocks on the northeast and south-eastern parts of the country. About 75% of its land is less than 3m above MSL and vulnerable to floods and cyclone. The maximum elevation land is 1,280m above MSL at Saichal Range in Rangamati district. Tajingdong (Bijoy) is the highest peak (Banglapedia, 2000).

Figure- 1.2 : Physiography of Bangladesh



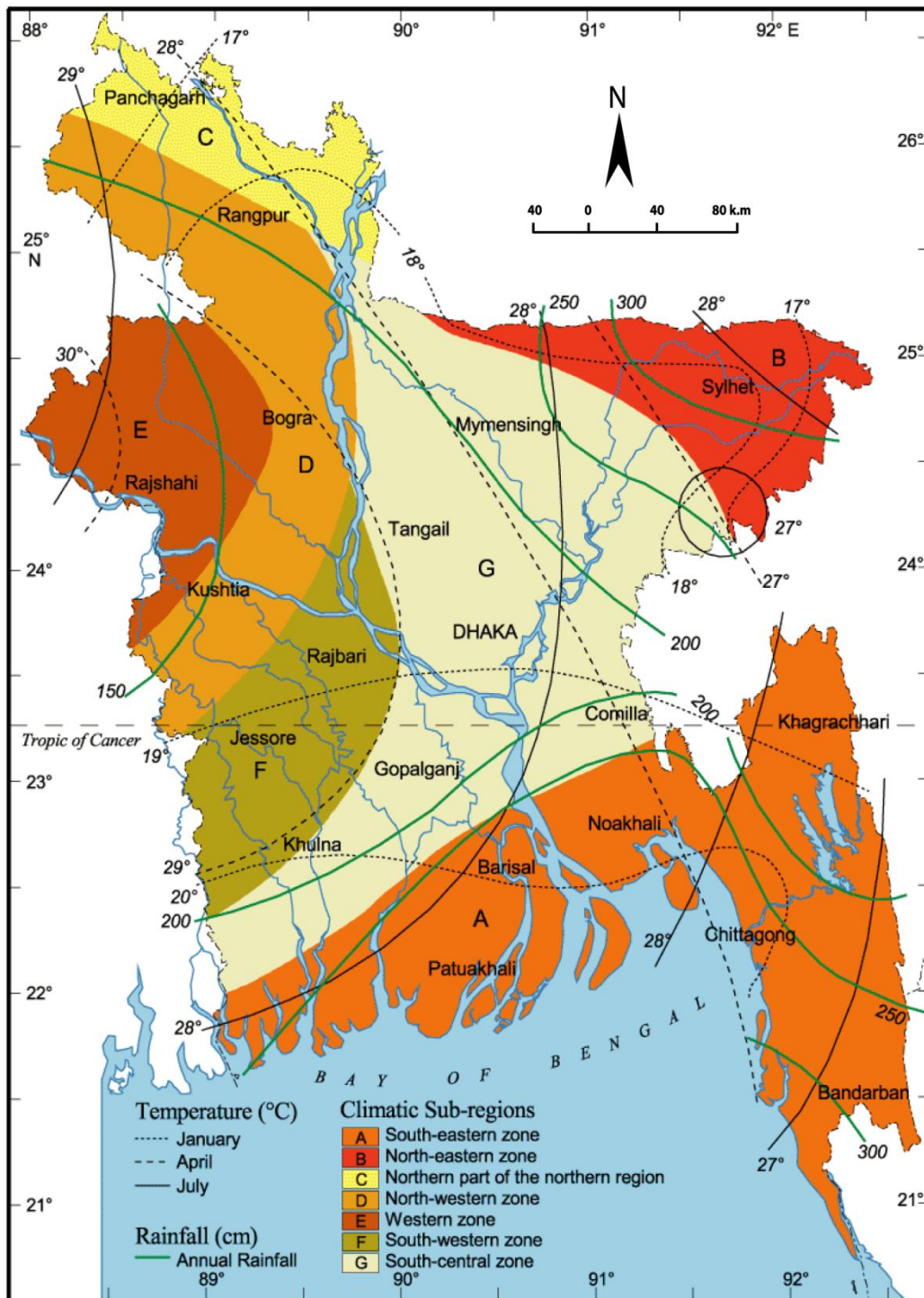
Source : Modified From SRDI, 1997; Rashid, 1991; Reimam, 1993; Compiled by Faruk, 2013

1.3.4: Climate

Bangladesh enjoys a unique monsoon climate with tropical warm, wet, and humid situations for its geographical location. It has a mild winter from October to March a hot, humid summer from March to June, and a warm and humid monsoon. Thus, Sylhet district, the northeast parts of the country, becomes wettest areas having an annual average rainfall

of 356 cm (140 inches). Almost every year, natural calamities e.g. floods, tropical cyclones, nor-westerly, and tidal bores take place in this country because of deforestation, environmental degradation, and soil erosion. At Cox's Bazar and Kuakata areas have beaches that stretch uninterrupted over 120 km. (75 miles).

Figure-1.3: Climate of Bangladesh



Source : Rashid, Haroun, Er, 1991, Compiled by Faruk, 2013

The low-lying delta areas occurs severe floods from monsoon rainfalls, cyclones, and storm-surges that creates major damage e.g. high loss of life, and resources. The cyclones of 1970, 1991, and the monsoon floods of 1988, 1998 and 2004 are mostly devastated and severe natural hazards of our land. In September 1998, a catastrophic natural crisis occurs because of over split the water of the Brahmaputra, the Ganges, and the Meghna which inundates 300,000 houses, 9,700 km. of roads and 2,600 km. of embankments, 1,000 people killed and more than 30 million people becomes homeless with 135,000 cattle killed, 50 sq. km. of land destroys and 11,000 km. of roads damages and destroys. During the flood, two-thirds land of the country inundates under water.

1.3.5: Land

Bangladesh has a low-lying alluvial land which composes and amalgamates the great delta of the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna river. On the other hand, the Chittagong Hills along the Myanmar border contains the ranges of hills and hillocks with an average height of 90 m (300 ft) above sea level. These high lands originate numerous streams, tributaries, distributaries, and tidal creeks, and it forms a network of waterways that connects with the main transportation system of the country. Along the south-western coast of the country, the Sundarban — a mangrove swamp, and marshy land with numerous low islands creates a high profile eco-system with varieties of floral and faunal species.

1.3.6: Surface Water

Bangladesh is artistic with plenty of surface water and groundwater resources. The maximum surface water flows of the country occurs is about 140,000 cumec in August, in rainy season, and a minimum of about 7,000 cumec in rainfall occurs in February, a dry month of the year. Moreover, the alluvial aquifer systems of Bangladesh mostly use water from groundwater reservoirs for agricultural activities. It occurs at a shallow depth where the recent rivers sediments and forms substantial aquifers in the floodplains.

1.4 : Historical Background of Bangla

The Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman, and Austro-Asiatic peoples were settled the Remnants of civilization in Bengal about 4000 years ago (Banglapedia, 2000). In considerations of geographical, historical and cultural aspects, Bangladesh stands on a fertile land at the Ganges delta with vast fertile lands where accommodates a huge population. The country emerges the independent and sovereignty on December 16, 1971 thorough a nine-month

war of liberation with West Pakistan. Therefore, the East Pakistan (Bangladesh) separated from the western wing (West Pakistan) with a distance of 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) across the India. Moreover, the new state had to suffer famines, natural disasters, severe poverty, a political chaos, and military coups. Subsequently, the re-establishment of democracy has confirmed stability and economic progress in 1991.

1.5: Historical Aspects

1.5.1: Geological Background of Bangladesh

Bangladesh occupies the world's largest delta, the Ganges, and the Brahmaputra valley. The geological evolution of this area is mainly related to uplift movements of the Himalayas Mountains ranges. Subsequently, these highlands make a drainage system with its major rivers and deltaic landmasses. This process mostly categories a rapid subsidence of earth materials which fills the Bengal basin with a perpetual process of sedimentation and forms new land towards the south. In addition, the delta formation process continues at the estuary of Meghna and it gradually makes a new land formation at the mouth of Meghna river and at the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal. In considerations of plate tectonics, a huge collision occurs between the Indian plates with Asian plate in the early Triassic period (225 to 190 million years) that affects on the sea floor spreading and fragmenting. Moreover, the continental masses got together, broke up, and reformed these plates several times during the four and a half billion years of earth history.

According to Gordon, 1972, in the early Triassic period (225 to 190 million years ago), the earth's land formed in a single continental mass, Pangaea which was surrounded by one ocean, Panthalassa. The latest continental disintegration occurred about 200 million years ago, and the plates started moving in different directions. In the beginning, the Pangaea split into two masses e.g. Laurasia and Gondwana. Moreover, Laurasia broke into three parts e.g. North America, Asia, and European land masses. On the other hand, Asian landmass formed two plates e.g. the Eurasian and, the East Asian land mass. Thus, these movements of plates changed the land formation and formed new lands.

Table-1.2: Geological Succession of Bangladesh

Era	Period	Epoch	Group	Formation	
C E N O Z O I C	Quaternary			Alluvium	
	T	Holocene		Unconformity II	
		Pleistocene		Madhupur Clay St. Martin's Limestone	
	E	Pliocene		-----	Unconformity II
				Dihing	
	R	Late Miocene		-----	Unconformity II
				Dupi Tila Clay stone	
	I	Middle Miocene		-----	Unconformity
			Tipam	Girujan Clay Tipam Sandstone	
	y	Early Miocene		Surma	
			-----	Unconformity II	
E	Oligocene		Barail	Renji Jenum	
			-----	Unconformity II	
MESOZOIC	Cretaceous	Late Eocene	Jaintia	Kopili Shale	
	Jurassic	Middle Eocene		Sylhet Limestone	
		Early Eocene to Pliocene		Tura Sandstone Sibganj	
PALEO-ZOIC	Permian	Early Cretaceous	Rajmahal	Rajmahal	
		Late Jurassic	-----	Unconformity	
		Late Permian	Gondwanaland		
PRE CAMBRIAN		Early Permian	-----	Unconformity II	

Source: Modified Faruk 2014 after F. K. Khan, 1991.

1.5.2: Jurassic period (190 to 136 million years ago)

The Gondwanaland landmass splits off and moves to the north towards Asia. Apparently, the Indian portion of Gondwanaland is on the same plate with Australian plate, and both areas moved north position due to sea-floor spreading to the newly formed Indian Ocean. However, the Indian portion swung faster to north and collided with the East Asian and Eurasian plates in the Eocene period (54 to 38 million years ago).

1.5.3: Oligocene period (38 to 26 million years ago)

Subsequently, a portion of the north-eastern part of India fractured and sank below sea-level which was filled up over the next 37 million years, and it forms the Bengal Basin. Bangladesh is therefore, formed a mass of sediments underlain by the very old rocks of the Gondwanaland continent. Due to its portion with one of the world's major subtraction faults in the north and a major transform fault in the east the Bengal Basin and its adjacent areas shape one of the most active tectonic regions of the world. Large areas within Bangladesh have been uplifted in recent times and some areas are still sinking. It has been hypothesized of a major fault at depth or a subsiding through along the axis of the Jamuna, the Padma – the Meghna river system (Morgan and McIntire, 1954) this subsiding structural zone considers the fore deep of the transform fault in the east. The Bengal Basin has gradually been filled by sediments washed down from the highlands on three sides from the Himalayas where the slopes are steeper and the rocks less consolidated. The land formation process must take place due to the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers. Hence, the study highlights an understanding the necessity to modify the geological succession of the country to have a modified and sophisticated geological map of Bangladesh which will record a combination of bio and lithography forms of the lands. Hence, the revised and modified geological succession is given in the table below:

1.5.4: Geo-Tectonic Aspects of the Sub-continent and SE Asia

Tectonic framework refers to the structural basement on which Bangladesh stands. Tectonically, the country is divided roughly into the following divisions:

1.5.5: Pre-Cambrian Indian platform and Shelf

Pre-Cambrian Indian platform occupies the Rajshahi, Bogra, Rangpur, and Dinajpur area which has a moderate thickness of sedimentary rocks above a pre-Cambrian igneous and metamorphic basement. This geological unit is stable, which has not affected with fold movement. These basins usually contain coal base rock units of the Permian period (286 to 245 million years ago), the oldest sedimentary rocks in Bangladesh. This platform is divided into a northern Rangpur Saddle with a very shallow pre-Cambrian basement (130 to 1,000m), and a southern Bogra shelf with basement at moderate depths (1 to 6 km).

1.5.6: Geosynclinals or Bengal Fore Deep

The geosynclinals basin in the southeast parts has the huge thickness (maximum of about 20km near the basin) of classic sedimentary rocks, mostly sandstone and shell of Tertiary

Age. It consists of greater Dhaka, Faridpur, Noakhali, Sylhet, Comilla, Chittagong, and narrow continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal. The huge thickness of sediments in the basin occurs due to a tectonic mobility, or instability of the areas causing rapid subsidence and sedimentation. The geosynclinal basin is subdivided into two parts, e.g. fold belt in the east, and a fore deep to the west. The fold belt characterizes folding of the sedimentary layers into a series of anticlines (upward folds) and synclines (downward fold). The anticlines form the hills, and the synclines form valleys as seen in the Topography of the eastern Chittagong - Comilla - Sylhet regions. The intensity of the folding is greater towards the east, causing higher topographic elevation in the eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts. As the intensity of folds decreases towards the west, the fold belts unit merges with the fore deep unit, which is only mild or no folding. Therefore, the sedimentary layers mostly change to a horizontal to sub-horizontal situation which is free from major tectonic deformation in the fore deep area covering the central part of the basin, and this directs as river to delta plain topography of the land.

1.6: Cultural Aspects of the Pople of Bangal Region

The culture of Bangladesh refers to the way of life e.g. food, dresses, languages, religions, socio-economical activities, and environmental situations on the people of Bangladesh. The land, the rivers, and the lives of the Bangladeshis formed a rich heritage with marked differences from neighbouring regions. It has evolved over the centuries and encompasses the cultural diversity of several social groups of Bangladesh. The Bengal Renaissance of the 19th and early 20th centuries noted Bengali writers, saints, authors, scientists, researchers, thinkers, painters, and movie-makers have played a significant role in the development of Bengali Culture. The Bengal Renaissance contained the seeds of a nascent political Indian nationalism and was the precursor in many ways to modern Indian artistic and cultural expression. The culture of Bangladesh is composite and over the centuries has assimilated influences of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity. It is manifested in various forms, including music, dance, and drama; art and craft; folklore and folktale; languages and literature; philosophy and religion; festivals, and celebrations; as well as in a distinct cuisine and culinary tradition.

The music and dance styles of Bangladesh may be divided into three categories: classical, folk, and modern. The classical style has been influenced by other prevalent classical forms of music and dances of the Indian subcontinent, and accordingly show some

influenced dance forms like Bharata Natyam and Kuchipudi. The folk and tribal music and dance forms of Bangladesh are of indigenous origin and rooted to the soil of Bangladesh. Several dancing styles in vogue in the north-eastern part of the Indian subcontinent, like *monipuri* and *santal* dances, are also practiced in Bangladesh, but Bangladesh has developed its own distinct dancing styles. Bangladesh has a rich tradition of folk songs, with lyrics rooted into vibrant tradition and spirituality, mysticism, and devotion. Such folk songs also revolve round several other themes, including love themes. Most prevalent of folk songs and music traditions include Bhatiali, Baul, Marfati, Murshidi, and Bhawaiya. Lyricists like Lalon Shah, Hason Raja, Kangal Harinath, Romesh Shill, Abbas Uddin, and many unknown anonymous lyricists have enriched the tradition of folk songs of Bangladesh. In relatively modern context, Robindro Shongit and Nazrul Giti form precious cultural heritage of Bangladesh. In recent time, western influences have given rise to several quality rock bands, particularly in urban centers like Dhaka. Several musical instruments, some of them of indigenous origin, are used in Bangladesh, and major musical instruments used are the bamboo flute (*bashi*), drums (*dhol*), a single stringed instrument named *ektara*, a four stringed instrument called *dotara*, and a pair of metal bawls used for rhythm effect called *mandira*, are important in the culture of Bangladesh. Currently, several musical instruments of western origin like guitars, drums, and the saxophone are also used, sometimes alongside with traditional instruments.

Festivals and celebrations are an integral part of the culture of Bangladesh. Prominent and widely celebrated festivals are Pohela Boishakh, Independence day, National Mourning Day, Eid ul-Fitr, Eid ul-Adha, Durga puja, and Language Movement Day.

Bangladesh is ethnically homogeneous, with Bengalis comprising 98% of the population. The majority of Bangladeshis (about 90%) are Muslim, while there are a large number of Hindus, Christians and Buddhists are also living in the country. But due to immense cultural diversity, multiple dialects, hybridization of social traits and norms as well as cultural upbringing, Bangladeshis cannot be stereotyped very easily, except for the only fact that they are very resilient in nature. People of different religions perform their religious rituals with festivity in Bangladesh. The Government has declared National Holidays on all important religious festivals of the four major religions. Durga Puja, Christmas, and Buddho Purnima are celebrated with enthusiasm in Bangladesh. All of these form an integral part of the cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a land of festivity. Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Eid-e-Miladunnabi, Muharram etc. Hindus observe Durga Puja, Kali Puja, and Saraswati Puja among others. Buddho Purnima is the biggest festival for Bengali Buddhists, and Borodin (Christmas) is celebrated by the Christians. People from several tribal communities also have their respective festival as well. Apart from these religious and tribal celebrations there are also several secular festivals. Pohela Boishakh (Bengali New Year) is the biggest among all the festivals in Bangladesh. Bangladesh also observes 21 February as Shahid Dibash (as observed worldwide as International Mother Language Day), 26 March as Independence Day, and 16 December as Victory Day.

1.6.1: Race

Bangladeshi or Bangladeshis are people who are citizens of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is largely ethnically homogeneous. Indeed, its name derives from the Bengali ethno-linguistic group, which comprises 98% of the population. They possess a rich culture and a language of their own called Bengali. The Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet, Mymensingh and North Bengal divisions are home to diverse indigenous peoples. Today substantial populations with Bangladeshi ancestry exist in many different parts of the world as a result of emigration, notably in United Kingdom, Middle East, Southeast Asia and North America. The vast majority (about 98.5%) of Bangladeshis are of the Bengali ethno-linguistic group. This group also spans the neighboring Indian province of West Bengal. Minority ethnic groups include Meitei, Khasi, Santhals, Chakma, Garo (tribe), Biharis, Oraons, Mundas and Rohingyas.

Bangladesh's tribal population was enumerated at 897,828 in the 1981 census. These tribes are concentrated in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and around Mymensingh, Sylhet, and Rajshahi. They are of Sino-Tibetan descent and differ markedly in their social customs, religion, language and level of development. They speak Tibeto-Burman languages and most are Buddhist or Hindu. The four largest tribes are Chakmas, Marmas, Tipperas and Mros. Smaller groups include the Santals in Rajshahi and Dinajpur, and Khasis, Garos, and Khajons in Mymensingh and Sylhet regions. There are small communities of Meitei people in the Sylhet district, which is close to the Meitei homeland across the border in Manipur, India.

1.6.2: Population

Bangladesh has about 17 million people with a density of 952 population per sq km. Annual growth rate of population is 1.47 % (1991-2001) where as male-female ratio is 106:100. Subsequently, the urban population is 28.8 millions, and the rural population is 94.34 millions. Life expectancy at birth is 67 years in 2012. Ethnically, Bangladeshis are an amalgamation of Dravidian, Proto-Australoid, Mongoloid, and Aryans in mixed group people. Moreover, about 1.2 million tribal inhabitants live at Khagrachhar, Bandarban, Rangamati, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Maulvi Bazar, Dinajpur, Joypurhat, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Rangpur, Bogra, Nawabganj, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Barguna, and Bhola districts. About 45 tribal groups are there in Bangladesh, and among the tribal groups Chakma, Garo, Hajong, Khasia, Magh, Santals, Rakhain, Mainpuri, Murong are noteworthy.

Table-1.3: Population Distribution of Bangladesh from 1872 to 2011

Year	British Bengal	Bangladesh Territory
1872	34,691,799	---
1881	37,020,563	---
1891	39,812,165	---
1901	42,888,194	28,927,786
1911	46,312,262	31,555,056
1921	47,599,233	33,254,096
1931	51,087,338	35,604,170
1941	60,306,526	41,997,297
1951	---	44,165,740
1961	---	55,222,663
1974	---	76,398,000
1981	---	89,912,000
1991	---	111,455,185
2001	---	123,151,246
2011	---	?????

Source: Census of India, 1931, 1941; Census of Pakistan, 1951, 1961 and Bangladesh Population Census, 1991, 2001, and 2011.

1.6.3: Religions

Most of Bangladeshis are Muslim (89.7%). Rest of other people are from various minority groups such as Hindus (9.2%), Buddhists (0.7% Theravada), Christians (0.3% Roman Catholic), and Animists (0.1%). Among Muslims, about 97% are Sunni while over 3% Shi'a, and rest of people are Ahmadis. Predominantly, the ethnic Biharis are Shi'a Muslims. Among Muslim-majority countries, Bangladesh ranks fourth after Indonesia, Pakistan and India of the number of Muslims with over 130 million. In addition, Islam is the state religion of

Bangladesh. Consequently, other religious people can also practise their respective religions. Islam fairly and moderately practices in Bangladesh in family, societal, economical, and political affairs. In addition, Bangladeshis has a pride of dignified Bengali culture with Islamic (Muslim) combination. Similarly, the Hindus, Christians, Buddhists have developed a special culture combination with their religious reflection.

1.7: Economic Aspects of Bangladesh

1.7.1: Economic Activities

The economy of Bangladesh is a rapidly developing capitalist economy. Its per capita income in 2013 is in PPP terms and 36 largest in nominal terms with a gross domestic product of US\$419 billion in PPP terms and US\$173.8 billion. The economy has grown at the rate of 6-7% per annum over the past few years. Nearly half of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector. Other goods produced are textiles, jute, fish, vegetables, fruit, leather and leather goods, ceramics, ready-made goods. Bangladesh is considered as the next Asian Tiger Economy.

Exports of textiles and garments are the largest source of foreign exchange earnings. Shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods manufacturing are important emerging industries, while the jute sector is re-emerging with increasing global demand for green fibres. Remittances from Bangladeshis working overseas, mainly in the Middle East, are another major source of foreign exchange earnings. Other important export sectors include fish and seafood, ceramics, cement, fertilizer, leather and leather goods, food products, software and IT services. Bangladesh has also made major strides in its human development index.

Table-1.4: Export, Import, and Foreign Remittances Earning of Bangladeshis

Fiscal Year	Total Export	Total Import	Foreign Remittance Earnings
2007–2008	\$14.11b	\$25.205b	\$8.9b
2008–2009	\$15.56b	\$22.00b+	\$9.68b
2009–2010	\$16.7b	~\$24b	\$10.87b
2010–2011	\$22.93b	\$32b	\$11.65b
2011–2012	\$24.30b	\$35.92b	\$12.85b
2012–2013	\$35.00b	\$38.92b	\$16.00b

Source: Wikipedia, 2014

1.7.2: Balance of Trade : Bangladesh Perspective

Bangladesh recorded a trade deficit of 98.96 Bangladesh Taka Billion in April of 2014. Balance of Trade in Bangladesh averaged -19.42 Bangladesh Taka Billion from 1976 until 2014, reaching an

all time high of 0 Bangladesh Taka Billion in April of 1977 and a record low of -128.40 Bangladesh Taka Billion in January of 2012. Balance of Trade in Bangladesh is reported by the Bangladesh Bank. Bangladesh exports mainly readymade garments including knit wear and hosiery (75% of exports revenue). Others include: Shrimps, jute goods (including Carpet), leather goods and tea. Bangladesh main exports partners are United States (23% of total), Germany, United Kingdom, France, Japan and India. Bangladesh imports mostly petroleum product and oil, machinery and parts, soybean and palm oil, raw cotton, iron and steel and wheat. Bangladesh main imports partners are China (17% of total), India, Indonesia, Singapore and Japan. This page provides - Bangladesh Balance of Trade - actual values, historical data, forecast, chart, statistics, economic calendar and news.

1.8: Bangladesh: Geopolitical Aspects

Bangladesh is very potential country of south-east Asia. It is a riverine small country of the Ganges delta that locates at northern apex of the Bay of Bengal. This land also considers as the gate-way of Indian sub-continent for its vital position. The ASEAN and the SAARC countries contain about one-third of the total population (350 cores) of the world, for instance, China-140 cores, the SAARC countries-150 cores, and the ASEAN countries-65 cores. In addition, China, a future super power country stands only about 100 km (64 miles) away from the northern point of Bangladesh across the Darjeeling corridor of India.

The SAARC, one of the socio-economic and cultural cooperative regional blocks of south-east Asia with eight countries — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and Afghanistan are located on the western side of Bangladesh. On the other hand, the ASEAN countries — Indonesia, Malaysia (*Emerging Economic Tigers*), Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines are located on the eastern sides of the country. The present study reveals that the ASEAN and the SAARC countries bear almost the similar cultural, languages, religions, colonial historical, and heritages that encourage these nations to make great blocks in south and south-east Asians countries in the contemporary age of globalization. In this situation, the geographical location of Bangladesh connects as a bridge between these two regional economic blocks – the ASEAN and the SAARC. Consequently, Bangladesh plays a significant role in respect of geopolitical, geo-economical, and geostrategic significances for peace, defense, and security concern in this region. Thus, geopolitical study of Bangladesh bears an enormous significance in the field of applied political geography which may suggest coping with big powerful neighbours and

other super power countries for its security concern and the existence of this land of opportunities.

1.9: Foreign Relations

Bangladesh maintains a multinational diplomacy at the United Nations. In 1974, Bangladesh joins both the Commonwealth of Nations, and the UN. Moreover, the representative of Bangladesh served two terms in the Security Council of UN from 1978-1979, and from 2000–2001. Furthermore, in 1980, Bangladesh initiates a leading role to form SAARC, and in 1985, SARRC has been established as a cooperative organization with other neighbouring countries of south Asian nations. Bangladeshi representative has enjoyed the post of Secretary General of SARRC for two terms.

Since the gateway of Indian subcontinent and the potential land-bridge between the ASEAN and the SARRC countries, Bangladesh has a significance role for its foreign relations specially the geopolitical, geo-strategic, and geo-economic aspects. Moreover, Bangladesh has to deal with neighbours with nuclear power –India and Pakistan. In addition, Bangladesh has historical and cultural ties with India, and it structures an important part of the domestic political discussion. It is needless to say that the relationship between Bangladesh and India begins with a positive note because of Indian assistance in the independence war and reconstruction of Bangladesh in 1971.

However, there is an ups and downs relation between Bangladesh and India for several reasons. First, in 1975, India constructed a dam on the Ganges river at Farakka, eleven miles (18 km) from the Bangladesh boundary. Bangladesh alleges that the dam diverts much needed water from Bangladesh, and it creates a man-made disaster such as floods, and droughts to the south –western parts of the country. The withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka made a hazardous ecological outcome in the entire south-western parts of the country. Second, even though, in 2007 SAARC meeting, both nations –Indian and Bangladesh agreed to cooperatively work on security, economic, and boundary issues, India raised the question of illegal entrances of anti-Indian separatists, and Islamic militants, and they fenced along the most of her 4131.912 km border. Among other issues, proposed Tipaimukh Dam, Asian Highway, Transit-Corridor, delimitation of maritime boundary, the Ganges water sharing and waters sharing of 54 common international rivers, boundary conflicts, killing civilian by BSF, informal trade, transitional crime, interference

in internal affairs, Myanmar-India gas line issue, and dominating attitudes of India, have adversely affected the relationship with Bangladesh.

In addition, India has an intention of geopolitical, economical, and military giant involving in the world's affairs due to establish the 'Indian Doctrine – united India whereas Bangladesh is concerned for its security and existence. In consideration of foreign policy, Indian got an advantage for its contribution to the liberation war of Bangladesh which results a continuation of cordial relations between these two countries. On the other hands, India should show honour for a friendly relationship of Bangladesh for her (India's) own interest (Indian Doctrine) because India can never be a super power ignoring her surrounding small neighbours. Therefore, India, the great neighbour has to respect the rights of about 120 million Bangladeshis. In respect of foreign relation, Bangladesh processes a friendly relation with neighbours, and others. Hence, this country appreciates the essence of regional cooperation, and the benefits of peaceful coexistence.

1.10: Significance of the Study

Bangladesh bridges between the ASEAN and the SAARC Blocks. In other words, Bangladesh occupies a pivotal position in between the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks. The SAARC contains about one-fifth of the total Global population. And, the SAARC and the ASEAN together contain about one-third of the total population of the World. Bangladesh is mostly bordered by India, a big neighbour with nuclear power in the SAARC. The ASEAN touches the South-Eastern boundary of Bangladesh. This small border is demarcated by Myanmar (Rakhain State) to the south-east. China—the future super power of the world stands only about hundred km away from the northern tip of Bangladesh. Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand the '*Emerging Economic Tigers*', are the members of ASEAN, are located to the south of Bangladesh. Therefore, significance of a geopolitical study of Bangladesh is immense. Moreover, both of the blocks the SAARC and ASEAN carry immense geostrategic as well as geo-economic importance.

It is one of the potential countries of the South and the South-East Asia, plays a vital role because of its special geographical, geo-economical and strategically significant location in the region. The country of Bangladesh is getting its convenient geopolitical and geo-economical importance from some of the regional and international blocks and organizations like SAARC, ASEAN, ESCAP, and CIRDAP. The SAARC countries are containing about the one-third of the total population of the world. Moreover, the SAARC

and ASEAN countries are including about the half of the total population of the World. Bangladesh is located between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries. The main seaport of the country, Chittagong is located at the south-eastern parts of the country and it bordered by the Bay of Bengal to the west, Indian state of Tripura to the north and east, Mizoram to the east. Only a small border of the region is demarcated by the north-eastern boundary of Myanmar (Arakan state). Moreover, it is very nearer to emerging superpower, China and '*Emerging Economic Tigers*', Indonesia and Malaysia. As a result, geopolitically, geo-economically and strategically, the significance of Bangladesh is immense. In order to preserve Bangladesh as an international communication route for the development of the region, and deals with the geopolitics, geo-economics, and geo-strategies, the present study of Bangladesh bears a huge academic as well as applied significance.

1.11: Objectives of the Study

The main aim of the present study is to find out the bridging role of Bangladesh between the ASEAN and the SAARC blocks in regards of the geopolitical, geo-strategic, and geo-economic aspects.

- i. to find out geo-political role of Bangladesh in bridging between the SAARC and ASEAN countries
- ii. to find out geo-strategic significance of Bangladesh in relation to the ASEAN and the SAARC Blocks
- iii. to find out the geo-economical significance of Bangladesh in between the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks
- iv. to examine mediating role of Bangladesh among SAARC, ASEAN, and China in establishing positive diplomatic relations with the member states, and
- v. to explore the prospects and problems that appear before Bangladesh in achieving the goals of the bridging role in the region.

1.12: Methodology of Investigation

The study has been done based on both the primary and secondary data sources. In the primary survey, personal interviews with experts of geopolitics, geo-strategists, and geo-economists of the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks have been conducted to have understanding regarding the role of Bangladesh in ASEAN and SAARC.

An empirical field survey has been done to examine the prospects of sea port facilities in the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks viz. Chittagong port in connecting the ASEAN and SAARC countries. A questionnaire survey has been conducted to find out the public opinion on various aspects of Asian Highway, Trans Asian Railway, and Maritime boundary delimitation with India and Myanmar.

In secondary survey, data and information has been collected from various institutes, organizations, and research centres. Moreover, the published books, journals, unpublished thesis, articles of news papers and magazines, and seminars' presentations have been used as the main sources of data and information.

Data Sources:

- ❖ SPARRSO (Physiographic Aspects)
- ❖ Geological Survey of Bangladesh (Physiographic Aspects)
- ❖ Geological Survey of India (Physiographic Aspects)
- ❖ Survey of Bangladesh(Land Use)
- ❖ Survey of India(Land Use)
- ❖ Foreign Ministry Affairs, Bangladesh (Policy, Strategy)
- ❖ Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka
- ❖ SAARC Headquarter (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- ❖ ASEAN Head Quarter (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- ❖ Seminar Library of International Relations, Political Science, Department of Peace and Conflicts Studies, and Department of Geography and Environment of Dhaka University

1.13: Implication of the Study

Needless to say that the proposed study courses absolutely is an innovative area of research in the field of geo-political studies as well as global politics. It can hope that, it will positively perform an authentic breach of research in the geopolitical studies of Bangladesh. For making any plan and policy of Bangladesh, the present study will help a lot in order to increase the superiority of our living standard, to take necessary measures of our national security, and fulfil systematic guidelines to develop the country immensely.

1.14: Summary of Literature

In Bangladesh, the research on political geography relating geopolitical study is very rare. This study is one of the pioneering research works in the Political Geography in Bangladesh even in the world till-to-date. There exists almost nothing on this field of geopolitical study of Bangladesh. Only different researchers and authorities have so far done a few elementary studies on this field of Geopolitics. These are:

Alom, Md Morshed (2005), in his work, “Bangladesh's engagement with ASEAN: retrospect and prospect”, discusses a economic relation with Bangladesh to ASEAN countries.

Cole (1960), in his work entitled "Geography of world Affairs", converses about the spread of European influences all over the world, changing world power in the past and present. He shows the interest of Europeans and USA as handler the world power.

Debapriya and et.al. (2005), discuss the foreign trade of Bangladesh with neighbours and world in their work, “Bangladesh in the global trade regime: labour, environment, agriculture, export and trade negotiations”.

Haque (2000), in the work entitled "Gostidanda Oo Manab Vabitabbo Bhougolic Prakkhapate Bishwa Rajniti (Conflicts of civilization and Human's future in respect of world politics)" highlights about the basic concept of political geography, state, development of geopolitical concepts, changes of world power, boundaries, theoretical aspects of political geography in the world context. He did not analysis the significances, problems and prospects of Bangladesh in respect of geopolitical viewpoint.

Islam, Serajul (1988), in his works, “Bangladesh State and Economic Strategy” highlights on the economical aspects relating the foreign trade.

Jakub J. Grygiel (2006) published a book from the Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. The title of his book is "Great Powers and Geopolitical Change". In his book, he discusses the structured around historical case studies of Venice, the Ottoman Empire, and Ming China from roughly the eleventh to the sixteenth century. Because both the subject and the choice of case studies are uncommon in most current international relations theory, it seems appropriate to begin by justifying them and clarifying some terms.

Khan, Abdur Rob (2011), in his work, “East Asia and Look East policy: Bangladesh perspective”, discusses on the Indian Look East Policy thorough Bangladesh.

Khan, Azizur Rahman (1989), in the work, “The strategy of development in Bangladesh”, discusses the strategies for development in Bangladesh.

Rob (2006), in the work entitled "Bangladesher Bhu-Rajniti (Geopolitics of Bangladesh)" includes the geopolitical aspects of Transit, Asian Highway, South Talpotti, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Natural gas, NGOs activities and Sub-regional blocks. In his studies he shows the various geopolitical interests, prospects and suggestions for overcoming the intentional interferences with neighboring countries.

Taha (2007), in the work "Political Geography" enhances various aspect of political geography. He discusses the development of geopolitical concept and background of its thoughts. He also points out on the changes of world power on the basis of theoretical discussion.

Tayyeb-ur-rahman, Syed (1985), “Global geo - strategy of Bangladesh OIC and Islamic Ummah”, discusses the prospects of geo-strategic aspects as a Muslim priority country.

Sobhan, Rehman (2011), “Bangladesh India relations: perspectives from civil society dialogues”, highlights for a prospective relationship between India and Bangladesh.

The above authors and researchers have worked on conceptual aspects of geopolitical study. They have discussed on Transit, Asian Highway, South Talpotti, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Natural gas, NGOs activities, and various geopolitical interests, prospects and suggestions for overcoming the intentional interferences with neighboring countries. Hence, the present study will develop a bridge concept in between the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks.

CHAPTER TWO: BACKGROUND OF GEOPOLITICAL STUDIES IN BANGLADESH

2.1: Conceptual Aspects of Geopolitics

The entire living organisms are struggling at every stage of life for the existences. In the beginning of human civilization, there was a common phenomenon to occupy resources and properties of weak or less-developed neighbour groups, tribes or nations which led conflicts among the people, and it continues. Subsequently, the powerful rulers of the world's countries always try to dominate and influence the insubstantial weak neighbours' states of the socio-economical, cultural, and political aspects. Hence, spatio-temporal changes of political boundaries among the countries are very common in circumstances. Subsequently, powerful countries and nations intentionally still today getting involved into the internal affairs of other weaker nations that frequently change their size, shape, and location, and it makes the world into small segments of states ignoring the cultural and religious phenomena of the people. In addition, the powerful states occupy lands and collected natural resources, such as gas, oil, uranium, coal, iron, copper, zircon, magnetite, monazite, manganese, magnesium, sulphurs, which lead an unexpected interferences to other sovereign states for their security concern, geostrategic, geo-economics, and geographical aspects; hence, it creates conflicts among the nations and forms new states. In such a normal process of setting up a state, an inferior interaction of human and physical factors, Bangladesh has taken place her existence between the ASEAN and SAARC countries in south-east Asia in 1971. The present study reveals that the location significances of Bangladesh is as bridging between the east (ASEAN) countries, and the west countries (SAARC) which bears an enormous consequences in geopolitical, geo-strategic, and geo-economic aspects.

2.1.1: Geography, Geopolitics, Geo-strategy

States reflect fundamental geopolitics in their foreign policy or geo-strategy. Moreover, political success of a country depends on its geo-strategy. Since, a small developing country, Bangladesh is very concern for its security. Moreover, geo-strategy is a reflection of geopolitics which gains and maintains an advantage in their relative power. Therefore, the relationship among geography, geopolitics, and geo-strategy are: Geography is the physical reality, composed of mountains, rivers, seas, wind patterns, and human reality,

composed of economic activities, culture, social activities, and political aspects of a country. In addition, it deals with natural disasters e.g. seismic activities, climatic changes, floods, and cyclones which change the geological features of a place, or dramatic political changes – state expansion, boundary adjustments. Therefore, geographic setting of a state is a constant. Consequently, by itself it is not a useful variable to explain variation in foreign policy.

According to Jakub (2006), 'Geopolitics is the human factor within geography. It is the geographic distribution of centers of resources and lines of communication, assigning value to locations according to their strategic importance'. The geopolitical situation is the result of the interaction of technology, which alters the economic, political, and strategic importance of locations. For instance, Indian media influences on the cultural invasion of Bangladesh. Moreover, this big neighbour country controls the business commodities of Bangladesh as well as the surrounding neighbours' countries e.g. Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri-Lanka. Subsequently, it influences the natural, economic, social, and political activities too. Therefore, this is not a constant but a variable that describes the changing geographic distribution of routes, geopolitics, economic, and natural resources. Geo-strategy deals with a geographic direction of a state's foreign policy. It describes the efforts of projection of military power, and directs diplomatic activity. Every state has limited resources, and it is usually unable to take self decision, even in foreign policy of its own. Therefore, it focuses politically and militarily on specific areas of the world.

The geo-strategy is a project power of a location because of ideological reasons, interest groups, and leaders in comparison to geographic changes among geological ages of thousands of years while geostrategic changes measures in days, months, and years, and geopolitics changes with the rise and decline of centres of resources and shifts in routes. For example, the current economic growth of East Asia, and China represents a geopolitical change of similar proportions. Hence, geo-strategy is the most flexible of the following three concepts.

Table 2.1: Geography, Geopolitics and Geo-strategy

Change		
Level	Type and Cause	Effect
Geography Tectonic	de facto constant	-
Geopolitics	Systemic Slow rise and decline of empires; new transportation and production technologies	Changes in strategic value of locations, trade routes
Geo-strategy	State Varied dependent on situation on state borders	Success—reflective of geopolitics; failure—non-reflective of geopolitics

Source: Jakub, 2006.

2.2: Geopolitics and its Background

Geopolitics is an art and practice of using international political power over a pre-arranged territory. Usually, the term 'geopolitics' is issued as an applied and an extreme impact of geography on politics. In the last century, its usage has affected to extend spatial change boundaries of world countries tremendously in the last century. Moreover, at present the 'word geopolitics' is a well-known concept in geopolitical aspects though its uses in experimental formations during the world war II. Therefore, it can define as the study of geography, history, and social science with a reference to spatial politics and patterns at various scales from state to international (Wikipedia, 2012). It examines the political, economic, and strategic significance in terms of the location, size, function, and relationships of places and resources. There are some definitions of geopolitics to clarify its nature, limitations, and discussants. It discusses the political relations among nations, for example, involvement of claims and disputes pertaining to borders, and territories. According to New World College Dictionary (2005), geopolitics is the Nazi policy of aggressive territorial expansion. It is the study of relationship among politics and geography, demography, and economics in respect to foreign policy of a nation. A Nazi doctrine holds that the geographic, economic, and political needs of Germany justified its invasion and seized of other lands. However, the geopolitics is a combination of geographic and political factors relating to or influencing a nation or region.

2.3: Development of Geopolitical Concepts

Though the concept of geopolitics has known as the applied branch of the political geography in the World War II, it was practised from the very beginning of human evolution. The scholars expressed their views, opinions, and explanation about human existence of the world chronologically.

2.4: Geopolitical Practices in Old Ages

Herodotus (484–425 B.C.) critically evaluated history, geography, and archaeological aspects in his writing where he discussed the story of Persian Wars (500 B.C.-449 B.C.), a series of conflicts fought between Greek states and the Persian Empire. He also observed the growth of Persia into a great kingdom and traces the history and migration of the Greek people. In his writings, he describes the *denial policy* of the inhabitant of the lower Danube plains against an inhumane aggression of Persia, which is nothing but the same of buttery Israel aggression against the Palestine, or the denial policy of Red Force (*Lalfoze*) at Ukraine against the severe Nazi attract in the World War II.

In the 'Apology', Socrates (469 BC–399 BC) compared his military service to his courtroom troubles. He advised a jury to retreat from philosophy, and theory must also think soldiers should retreat when it looks like who would will kill in battle. In his philosophical thought, he influences his fellow Plato in idea of states and cities. Plato (428/427 BC–348/347 BC) believed the material world as it seems to us is not the real world, but only a shadow of the real world. Plato spoke the forms in formulating his solution to the problem of universals. According to Plato, the forms are roughly speaking archetypes, or abstract representations of many types and properties (universals) of things we see all around us. Consequently, Aristotle (384 BC -322 BC) begins his work of Politics on Assos and Kingship that has lost now. He also develops a philosophy distinct from that of Plato that the kings should be philosophers and philosophers' kings.

2.5: Geopolitical Practices before World War I

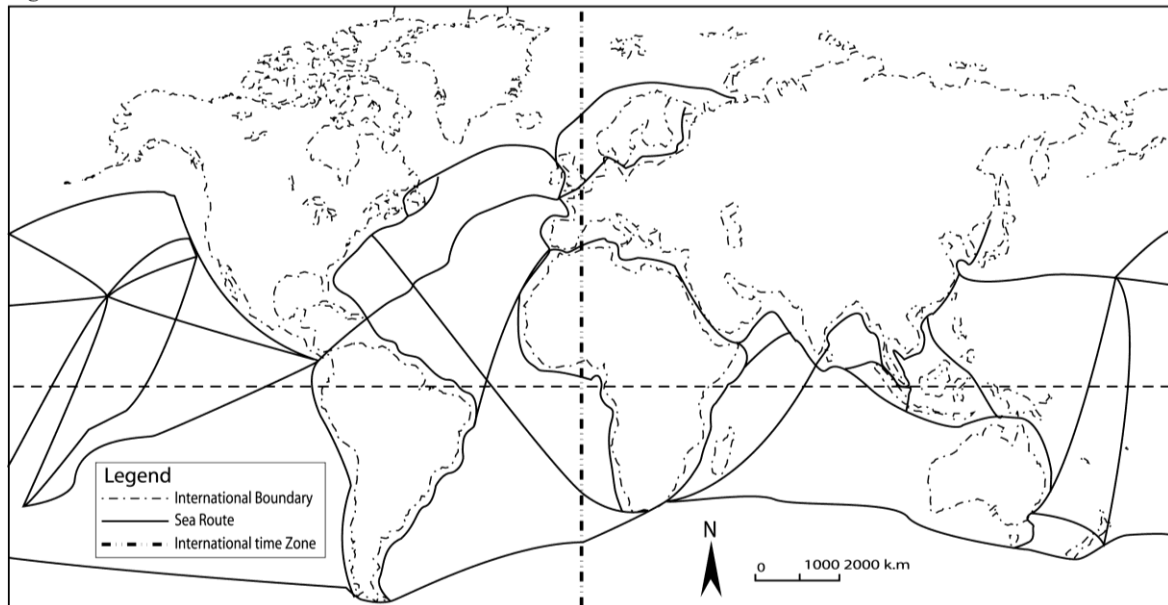
In the philosophical sketch, Immanuel Kant (22 April 1724 – 12 February 1804) made a list of several conditions for ending wars and creating a long-term peace. Moreover, he discusses the world of constitutional republics on the basis of classical republican theory. Conversely, Kant opposed democracy which is meant by direct democracy believing the majority rule posed a threat to individual liberty. He understood that democracy is properly speaking, necessarily a dictatorship because it established an executive power. Carl Ritter (August 7, 1779–September 28, 1859) wrote an implication for political theory. Moreover, his organic conception of the state could be abused to justify the pursuit of lebensraum, even at the cost of another nation's existence because conquest was seen as a biological necessity for a state' s growth. Furthermore, his ideas were adopted and transformed into an expansionist ideology by German geo-strategist Friedrich Ratzel. In

addition, Ritter might have hold responsibility for this interpretation which was developed under the influence of Darwinism and to become a leading and popular ideology in Germany only after Ritter's death. A Swiss-American geologist and geographer, Arnold Henry Guyot (September 28, 1807 – February 8, 1884) was a namesake of several geographical features, including Guyot Glacier in Alaska, Mount Guyot in North Carolina, and a different Mount Guyot in New Hampshire.

2.6: Geopolitical Practices from World War I

Alfred Thayer Mahan (September 27, 1840– December 1, 1914) emphasized on *Sea Power* which influenced British navies around the world and facilitated prompt naval loudening before World War I. Mahan's views were shaped by the eighteenth century thorough a series of naval wars between France and Britain where British naval control eventually defeated France with a consistently preventing invasion and blockade. Mahan's emphasizing on *Sea Power* made a crucial fact behind Britain's ascension, neglected the well-documented roles of diplomacy and armies, and the theory could not explain the success of terrestrial empires such as Bismarck and Germany. Since, as the Royal Navy's blockade, the German Empire which had a critical direct and indirect factor in the eventual German collapse, Mahan's theory was vindicated by the World War I. Nevertheless, Mahan's concept of sea power extended beyond naval superiority to advise states should increase production and shipping capacities to acquire overseas possessions - either colonies or privileged access to foreign markets and acquire resources.

In the Friedrich Ratzel (August 30, 1844 -August 9, 1904) essay, *Lebensraum* (1901) concerning biogeography created a foundation for the unique German variant of geopolitik (geopolitics). Ratzel's key contribution to geopolitik was the expansion on the biological conception of geography, without a static conception of borders. In his recommendation, states can grow with borders representing only a temporary stop in their movement which was an unclear view of organism because land has its spiritual bond with the people who draw sustenance from it. The expanse of a state's borders is a reflection of the health of the nation. Ratzel's idea of Raum (space) would grow out of his organic state conception. This early concept of lebensraum was not political or economic but spiritual and racial nationalist expansion. In addition, Ratzel's concept of raum(space) had theorized simply as the natural expansion of strong states into areas controlled of weaker states.

Figure-2.1: Sea Route of the World

Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

A Swedish political scientist and politician, Johan Rudolf Kjellén (13 June 1864–14 November 1922) first used the term *geopolitics* who was influenced by his teacher German geographer Friedrich Ratzel. He understood that states have responsibility for law and order, but it also has a task to enhance social welfare and economic progress. He mentioned that there were three characteristics of a state: Topopolitik, Physiopolitik, and Morphopolitik. The first two of them correspond to Lage(position) and Raum(territory), whereas Morphopolitik is connected with the shape and the form of a state. Therefore, Karl Haushofer adopted Kjellén's ideas in state formation, but he was not interested in economic policy rather would advocate autarky as well, a nation constantly in struggle would demand self-sufficiency.

2.7: Geopolitical Practices from World War II

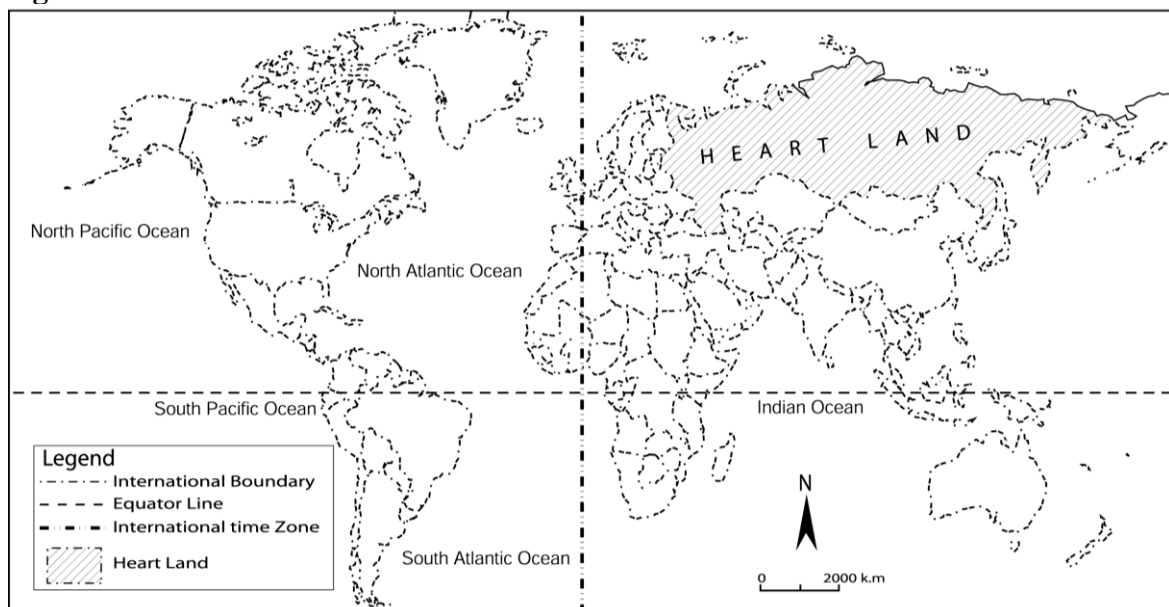
In 1923, Robert Strausz-Hupé (25 March 1903–24 February 2002), an advisor on foreign investment to American financial institutions watched the Depression spread political misery across America and Europe. He told the policy evolves towards several continental systems and technology accentuates the strategic importance of large and contiguous areas.

In 1904, Sir Halford John Mackinder PC (15 February 1861–6 March 1947) published an article "The Geographical Pivot of History" at the Royal Geographical Society where he formulated the Heartland theory. This is often considered as a founding moment of

geopolitics. The Heartland theory initially receiving little attention outside geography, this theory would influence the foreign policies of world powers. His major work was a perspective on the 1904 work in the light of peace treaties and Woodrow Wilson's idealism. This contains his most famous idea:

"Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland;
Who rules the heartland commands the World Island;
Who rules the World Island commands the World."

Figure-2.2: Heartland Mackinder



Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

The Heartland Theory was enthusiastically taken up by the German school of Geopolitik in particular by its main proponent Karl Haushofer, it was later embraced by the German Nazi regime in the 1930s, Mackinder was always extremely critical of the German exploitation of his ideas. Sir Halford Mackinder's Heartland theory concept showing the situation of the "pivot area" established this theory.

2.8: World-Island and the Heartland

Mackinder said that the earth's land surface is divisible into: The World-Island, comprising the interlinked continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa. This was the largest, most populous, and richest of all possible land combinations. The offshore islands include the British Isles and the islands of Japan. The outlying islands, includes the continents of North America, South America, and Australia. The Heartland lies at the centre of the

world island, stretching from the Volga to the Yangtze and from the Himalayas to the Arctic. Mackinder's Heartland was the area ruled by the Russian Empire and then by the Soviet Union, excluding the area around Vladivostok. In addition, Mackinder highlighted that effective political domination of the Heartland by a single power which was unattainable in the past because: The Heartland was protected from sea power by ice to the north and mountains and deserts to the south. Previous land invasions from east to west and vice versa were unsuccessful because lack of efficient transportation made it impossible to assure a continual stream of men and supplies.

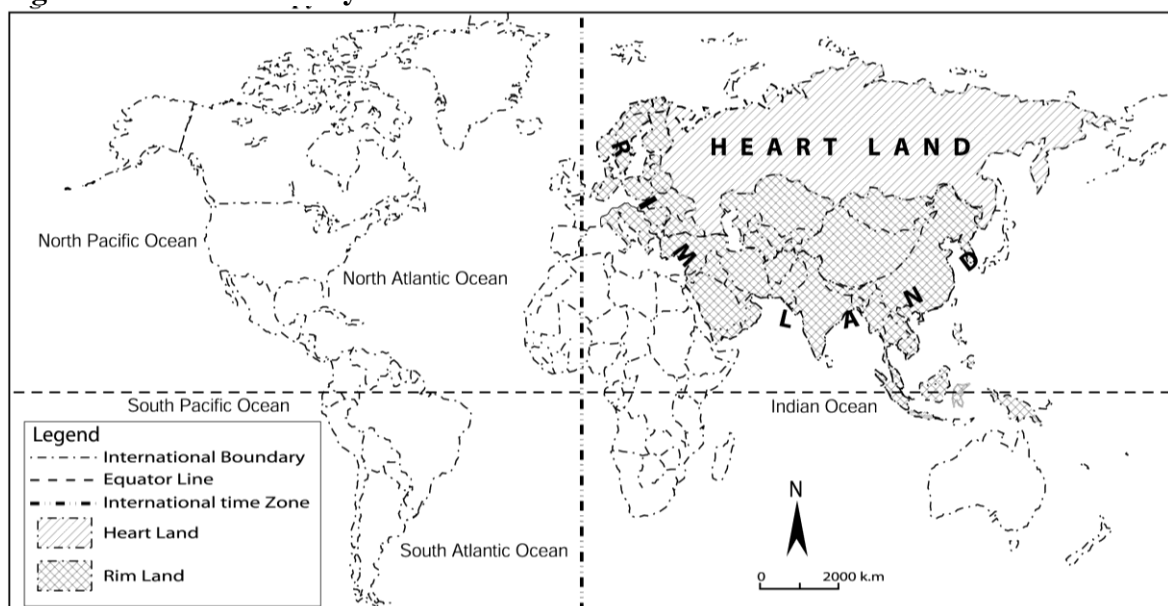
Karl Haushofer (August 27, 1869 – March 10, 1946) worked out on influence both through his academic teachings, urging his students to think in terms of continents and emphasizing motion in international politics, and through his political activities. While Hitler's speeches would attract the masses, Haushofer's works served to bring the remaining intellectuals into the fold. His geopolitik expands upon that of Ratzel and Kjellén. While the latter two conceive of geopolitik as the state as an organism in space put to the service of a leader, Haushofer's Munich school specifically studies geography as it relates to war and designs for empire. The behavioral rules of previous geopoliticians were thus turned into dynamic normative doctrines for action on lebensraum and world power.

Rudolf Walter Richard Hess (26 April, 1894 – 17 August, 1987) attempts to negotiate peace and subsequent lifelong imprisonment has given rise to many theories about his motivation for flying to Scotland, and conspiracy theories. Numerous British news services published descriptions of conflict between his Western and Soviet captors over his treatment and how the Soviet captors were steadfast in denying repeated entreaties for his release on humanitarian grounds during his last years. Hess has become a figure of veneration among neo-Nazis.

In his writings, Nicholas John Spykman (1893–1943) focuses concerning geography and foreign policy, Spykman was somewhat of a geographical determinist. Since geography was "the most fundamentally conditioning factor because of its relative permanence," it was of primary relevance in analyzing a state's potential foreign policy. Spykman adopts Mackinder's divisions of the world, renaming some: the Heartland, the Rim land (analogous to Mackinder's "inner or marginal crescent") and the Offshore Islands and

Continents (Mackinder's "outer or insular crescent"). In addition, the Rim land's defining characteristic is that it is an intermediate region, lying between the heartland and the marginal sea powers. As the amphibious buffer zone between the land powers and sea powers, it must defend itself from both sides, and therein lays its fundamental security problems. Spykman's conception of the Rim land bears greater resemblance to Alfred Thayer Mahan's "debated and debatable zone" than to Mackinder's inner or marginal crescent. Thus, the Rim land has great importance coming from its demographic weight, natural resources and industrial development. Spykman shows this importance as the reason that the Rim land will be crucial to containing the Heartland (whereas Mackinder had believed that the Outer or Insular Crescent would be the most important factor in the Heartland's containment).

Figure-2.3: Rimland of Sykeman



Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

Again, Spykman differs from Mackinder's observation of Eurasian wars as historically pitting the heartland against the sea powers for control of the rim land, establishing a land power-sea power opposition. Spykman recalls Mackinder's famous dictum,

Who controls Eastern Europe rules the Heartland,
Who controls the Heartland rules the World Island and
Who rules the World Island rules the World,

But disagrees, refashioning it thus: (REF)

“Who controls the rim land rules Eurasia,
Who rules Eurasia controls the destinies of the world”.

Alexander Nikolaievich Prokofiev de Seversky (June 7, 1894–August 24, 1974) emphasized on strategy of air power, and he became engrossed in formulating the theories of air warfare during the World War II. Sir John Cotesworth Slessor (3 June 1897 – 12 July 1979) suggested a key role in promoting nuclear weapons as an effective instrument of deterrence in early Cold War British strategy. Slessor believed that the United Kingdom would be able to meet a communist offensive without resorting to tactical nuclear weapons, and he became one of the key propagandists of the 'Great Deterrent' on both sides of the Atlantic. Immanuel Maurice Wallenstein's (28 September 1930) approach – World Systems Theory, discussed the capitalist world-system which was not a homogeneous in cultural, political, and economic terms - instead characterized by fundamental differences in civilization development, accumulation of political power and capital. It is also a fitting approach to apply as a new term at this point where the framework of regulation, taxation, and law are controlled and directed by elites for their own benefits. In Marxist-Leninist terms the state is an agent of elite interests. Even the capitalist concept of laissez-fair commerce is violated.

2.9: Geopolitical Practices at New Age: A New Colonial Concept

In the geopolitical significances of Bangladesh it seems that superpower countries like USA, UK and other western countries expect an united India with its eastern seven sister states and a pro-Indian free economic democracy in Bangladesh, and other weak neighbouring nations e.g. Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan. Therefore, they advocate for transit facility of India through Bangladesh to link with its eastern seven sister states. Moreover, the superpowers' sates nailed to ensure the Indian facilities in Bangladesh which very much concern of its security in trade and geopolitical interest in this region. In order to establish the 'New Economic World order or Uni-polar Global system' and get gets its facilities, USA and other western countries set up the largest NGO network by spending cores of Taka in the name of welfare the people of Bangladesh. The greatest NGOs of the country are located at the strategically significant places and the project canters are located at the important communication canters and the transitional route as well protected colonial forts. On demands these NGOs will play a vital role to ensure the

Protection coverage with special references to the transit system of India and the western helps and supply as strong and suitable forts. Moreover, through micro credit and brain washing motivational mass education system will help to ensure the interests of India and western countries perfectly.

2.10: Clash of Civilizations

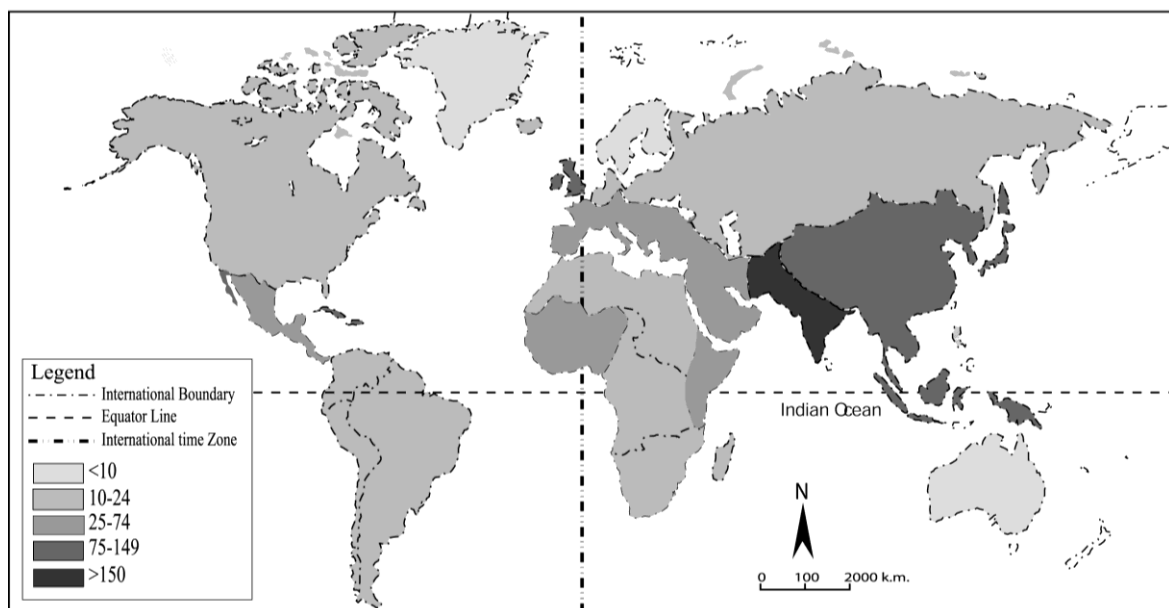
Although geopolitics is effectively practices from the World War II, the geopolitics experts, thinkers, educators, and the ruler of powerful states try to find out new ways to achieve superpower, and sustain the achieved power forever. Thus, the 'neo-colonialism' and 'clash of civilizations' concepts have been developed for ill motive greedy rulers in the modern the domination era. Among these, most notably is notion of the Clash of Civilizations by Samuel Huntington. In a peaceable world, neither sea routes nor surface transport are threatened. However, all countries are effectively close enough to one another physically. It is in the realm (space) of the political ideas, workings and cultures that there are differences and the term has shifted more towards this arena, especially in its popular practice. The study of geopolitics has undergone a major renaissance during the past decade. Addressing a gap in the published periodical literature, this study claims to explore the theoretical implications of contemporary geopolitics and geopolitical change with particular reference to territorial problems and issues of state sovereignty. Multidisciplinary in its scope, Geopolitics includes all aspects of the social sciences with particular emphasis on political geography, international relations, the territorial aspects of political science and international law. The article shows how to maintain a healthy balance between systemic and regional analysis. The geopolitical system is the ensemble of relations between the interests of international political actors, interests focused to an area, space, geographical element or ways (Vladimir Toncea, 2006). Geopolitics as a branch of political geography is the study of reciprocal relations between geography, politics and power and also the interactions arising from combination of them with each other. According to this definition, geopolitics is a scientific discipline and has a basic science nature (Hafeznia, 2006).

2.11: South-East Asia: A Man-Made Clash of Civilizations

In many Indian circles, the Indian elites, and native Anglo-American have the colonial bonds with London. It is observed to a ruin of ethnic theory attached to these views with links to the caste system and the Indian elite's Aryan self-concepts. Huntington's 'Clash of

Civilizations' notion and Mackinder's geo-strategic population model are factors behind these views too. Resource competition, demographics, and economic competition affects inevitably to draw India and China into a clash for supremacy in Asia. In addition, it primarily influences because of geography, amongst other factors, that Indian Civilization e.g. Hindu Civilization (Huntington's model) which has a confliction relationship or affiliation with Chinese Civilization e.g. Sinic Civilization and Islamic Civilization (Huntington's model). However, Chinese and Indian civilization both lives in peace in centuries without fighting between them and themselves, which may have the same application to Islamic Civilization.

Figure-2.4: Global Population Density, 2013



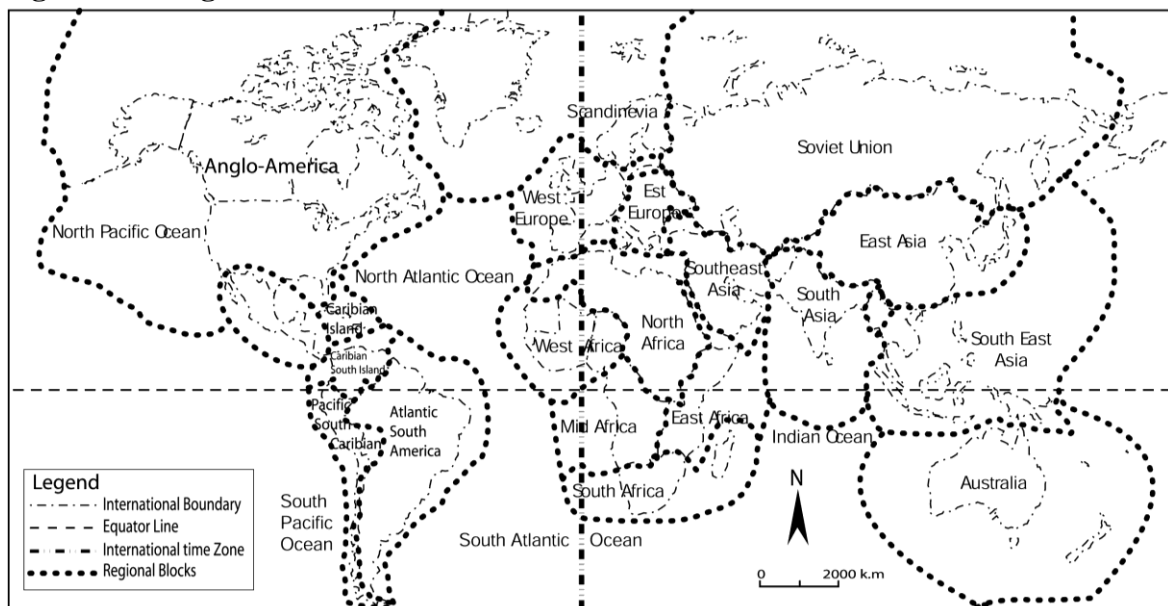
Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

A clash is not the natural ends of interaction between different civilizations and societies. Interaction is always based initially on trade, and it is the form of economic trade and the aims of either party that can result in a clash. Foreign powers that utilize a “Clash of Civilizations” scheme do so because of the economical control. A mere reading of Anglo-American strategic doctrine and observations of Anglo-American practices brings this into light. A historical look takes it as “Clash of Civilizations”, which has null-illustration that Indian civilization really overlaps with both Islamic civilization and Chinese civilization. Moreover, it is wrong to categorize the conflict between Pakistan and India as a conflict between all Muslims and the nation-state of India or even any of the internal fighting amongst Muslims and non-Muslims in India. *Vedicists* and Muslims, as well as several other religions lived together in relative peace until the start of British involvement in India. The animosity between Pakistan and India is a

synthetic construct where local elites and foreign powers worked together, not only to divide territory, but to control local groups that have lived together for hundreds of years by alienating them from one another (Nazemroaya, 2010).

In the augmentation of 'Clash of Civilizations' concept of Samuel P. Huntington, India and Vedic's describe the Pakistani elites as their enemies to an internal disruption and nonstop internal conflicts of social discrimination and unfairness concerning an external source. Moreover, the outside enemies use the local leaders to distract the populations. Subsequently, in an over view perceptive, the Huntington's model is to clarify the beneficiaries from civilization conflict because of global civilization challenges with a relationship of adversaries to put down. The most clashes between the nations or civilizations occur due to trade, and it can afford to burn some of its bridges or cut ties, and it sets up clashes between other civilizations. According to Nazemroaya (2010), 'Clash of Civilizations' is a usual way of social evolution which relates peace and cooperation. The conceptualization of Latin America, India, Israel, the so-called West, China, the Muslim countries, the Orthodox Christian countries, and the Buddhist nations as diverse and distinctive civilizations has a myth in itself that is very abstract.

Figure-2.5: Regional Blocks of the World



Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

Thus, dissimilarity will exist, but it is near to similarities, and it is not enough to support Huntington's civilization model.

CHAPTER THREE: GEOPOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF BANGLADESH

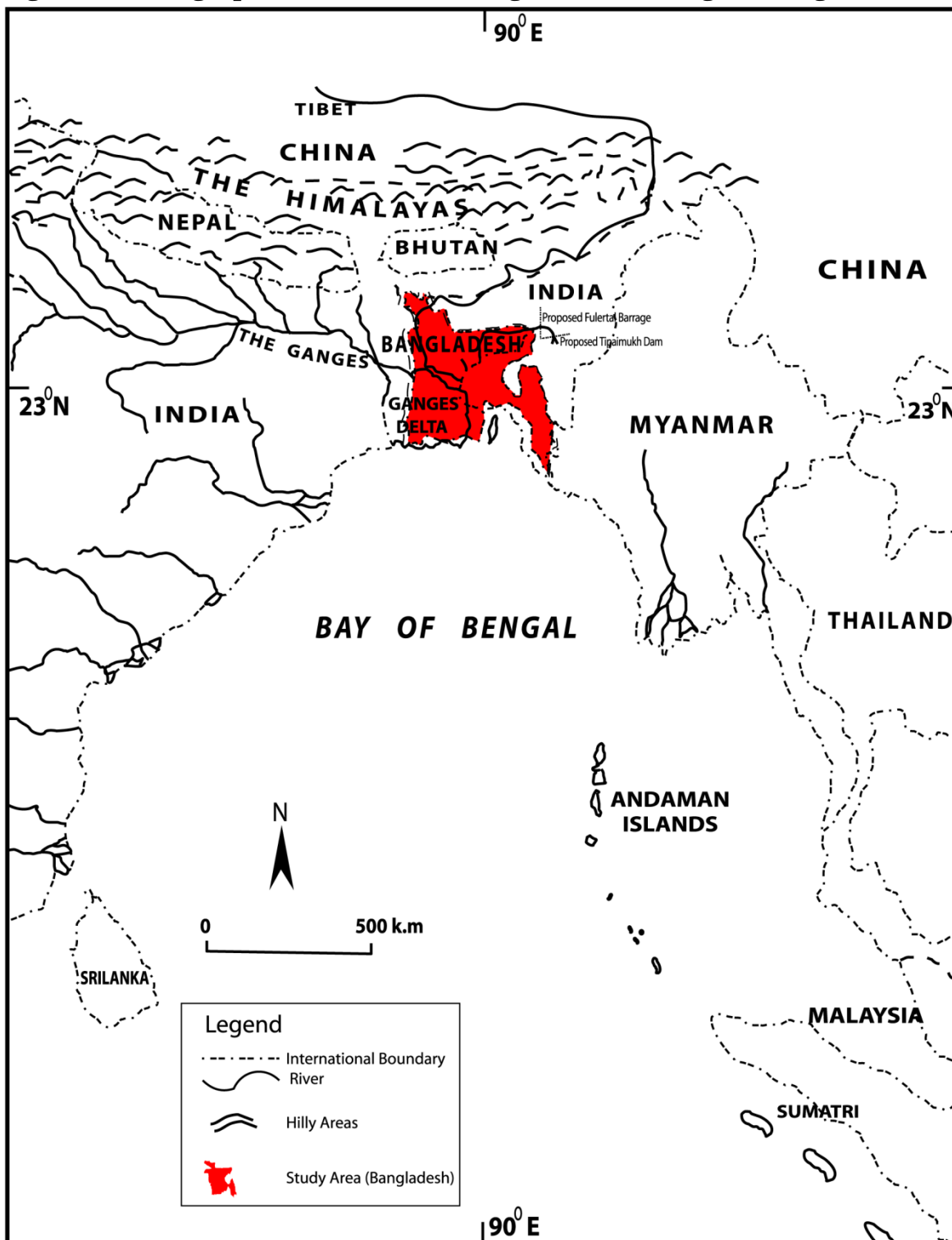
3.1: Geopolitical Considerations

The geopolitical nature of Bangladesh is significantly complex with a large boundary of 4392.570 km surrounding by India, the neighbour country with nuclear power. Moreover, the future super power China is only 100 km northward through the ‘chicken-neck’ corridor of India. Subsequently, the ‘*Emerging Economic Tigers*’ – Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore are very near to the eastern exits of Bangladesh through the south-eastern neighbour, Myanmar. Furthermore, the location of Indian seven sister states geopolitically make the Bangladesh more significant to India for its communicating with the main-stem-land, and carrying men and materials. The location of Chittagong seaport at the ‘gateway’ of Indian subcontinent is also glorified this land of opportunity in geo-strategies, geo-economics, and geopolitics. Hence, Bangladesh becomes a potential and forthcoming country of the South and South-East Asia which plays a vital role between the ASEAN and SAARC countries of its special geographical, geo-economical, and outstanding location. Therefore, the present study highlights the opportunities, resources, prospects, and possibilities of Bangladesh in respect of its geographical location and the present study may help a lot in order to plan for national security, strategy for foreign policy, and dealing with the geopolitical aspects.

3.2: Some Geopolitical Features of Bangladesh

The land formation of Bangladesh between the Himalayas (to the north) and the Bay of Bengal (to the south) is a simple action of the nature for the wonderful creation of earth. It has a vast plain land of the river Gangs, the Jamuna, the Surma-Kushiara, and their numerous tributaries and distributaries. The series of geological uplifted movements in the Bengal Basin, these alluvial lands gradually formed as a gift of natural features —the Himalayas, the Ganges river ranges, and a low gradient of the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal. Moreover, it takes millions of years to have the present shape of landscape which achieved its independence through many historical events of realm-role to change its size, shape, area, and boundary.

Figure-3.1: Geographical Location of Bangladesh and Neighbouring Countries



Source : Dr. Rob, 2009 and Compiled by Faruk, 2013.

This change of elevation and revolution zone occurred in the local natural spheres. Furthermore, the natural changes influence the internal and external configuration such as earth movements, earthquake, volcanic eruption, subsidence of the layer of the land, uplift

movement, rivers, the location of Himalayas, maritime location, low gradient slope of continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal, and these deposited the various organic elements e.g. sand, silt, clay, small particle of rocks, gravels, pebbles, cobbles, and fossils of plants and animals that carried by the rivers, the tributaries and distributaries which continuously forms new plains with a bless of 360 *Aouliyas*. In the recent decades, the deposition of river loads extends the land areas to the Bay of Bengal. Hence, the present geopolitical boundary of Bangladesh has shaped its own geographical land boundary in the south-east Asia.

In 1971, Bangladesh achieved her independence from West Pakistan thorough a blood-shading war. As a result of Muslim Movement of Indian in 1947, the 'Two-Nations Theory' of Kayoed Azam Mohammad Ali Zinnah, and the historical Lahor Proposal of Sher-E-Bangla Abul Kashem Fozlul Hoque on March 23, 1940 became a bench-mark to divide the Pakistan (East Pakistan and West Pakistan with Muslim majority), and India (Hindu majority). In 'Lahore proposal' in the Lahore convention of the All-Indian Muslim League this proposal, on March 23, 1940 there claimed a Muslim state for the Indian Muslims and other lawful rights as: "It was the considered view of this session of the All-India Muslim League that no constitutional plan would be workable in this country of acceptable to Muslims unless it was designed on the following basic principles, e.g. that geographically contiguous units were demarcated into regions which should be so constituted, with such territorial readjustment as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims were numerically in a majority as in the North Western and Eastern Zones of India should be grouped to constitute Independent States in which constituent Units would be autonomous and Sovereign".

Radcliffe Award

At the end of British rule in Indian Subcontinent, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, an eminent British jurist Chairman of the Bengal Boundary Commission, especially invited to fix the boundaries between the newly created States, India and Pakistan. A quick survey of the Indian scene convinced him first that partition was inevitable, and, secondly, that partitioning of the country required also partitioning of those provinces where the two communities were evenly balanced.

The Indian Independence Act, 1947, provided among the provisions the appointment of two Boundary Commissions for the division of Punjab and Bengal between Pakistan and India. Each boundary commission was to consist of an equal number of representatives of India and Pakistan and of one or more impartial members. Accordingly, Sir Cyril Radcliff was appointed as the chairman of both boundary commissions who would have the power to make the Award. The members of the Punjab Boundary Commission were Din Mohammad and Mohammad Munir on behalf of Pakistan, and Mehar Chand Mahajan and Tej Singh on behalf of India. The members of the Bengal Boundary Commission were Abu Saleh Mohammad Akram and S.A. Rahman on behalf of Pakistan and C. C. Biswas and B. K. Mukherjee on behalf of India. All of them were High Court Judges. The members of the commission had acute differences of opinion regarding the setting up of the boundaries. It was then mutually agreed that in case of conflict the chairman should give his verdict. Here again the Muslim League was made to play a losers game. Radcliff gave his verdict in favor of India and against the interest of Pakistan. In consultation with Mountbatten the partial arbitrator sliced away further areas from Pakistan and handed them over to the Hindus.

“Sir Cyril Radcliffe had himself foreseen the possibility of the criticism of his Award.” I am conscious”, he wrote, and “that there are legitimate criticisms to be made of it, as there are, I think, of any other line that might be chosen... I am conscious, too, that the Award cannot go far towards satisfying sentiments and aspirations deeply held on either side.”

The Sikhs lamented the consignment of almost half of their community into bondage, the loss of their holy places and their lands in the canal colonies which they had made habitable and fertile with their sweat and blood. Their other grievance was that the "other factors" mentioned in the terms of reference of the Commission had proved to be only a sop to inveigle them to accept the plan. Lord Mountbatten had been aware of their predicament but had pleaded his helplessness. This dissatisfaction and the deluge of communal hatred let loose since the Pakistan Resolution of the Muslim League in 1940 resulted in uprooting of humanity on both sides of the Radcliffe Line at a scale unparalleled in world history.

In Bengal, by far the most important question was related to the future of the great city of Calcutta. It was the capital of the province, its only major port, and its centre of industry, commerce, communication and education. In the city of Calcutta itself, Muslims formed

only a quarter of the population, but the hinterland, on which the life of Calcutta as a city and port depended and of which it formed an integral part, was a Muslim majority areas. But Radcliff assigned Calcutta to India, and along with Calcutta, he also assigned to India the whole of the Muslim majority district of Murshidabad and the greater part of the Muslim majority district of India. Nearly 6,000 square miles of territory with a population of 3.5 million Muslims that had been provisionally assigned to East Bengal were severed from it and transferred to West Bengal. On October 30, 1947, Mr. Jinnah felt so pained that he said, “We have been the victims of a deep-laid and well-planned conspiracy, executed with utter disregard of the elementary principles of honesty, chivalry and honor” (Wikipedia, 2014).

3.2.1: Boundary of Bangladesh: Historical Evolution

The historical devils, colonial death-biting, selfishness of feudalism, cunning policy of Hindu politician, and failure of the Muslim politician got a independent Muslim state, Pakistan on 14 August 1947 achieved by the Muslim of Bengal, and subsequently, Bangladesh has gotten its ‘Truncated and moth-eaten’ independent map on 16 December 1971 (Sharma, 1972, Sukhwat, 1971, Spate, 1971, Tayeb, 1966) thorough a blood-shedding war of million lives. Sir Cyril Radcliff, the Chairman of Bengal Boundary Commission, submitted a ‘truncated and moth-eaten’ and a conspired outline to divide the India and East Pakistan (Bangladesh) which was full of partiality by the Hindu community of India. Therefore, it occurred an adverse effect to the large number of Muslim community people of East Pakistan (Bangladesh). Moreover, this unplanned, partial and controversial geo-political project has appeared as a huge crisis for the Muslims of Murshidabad District of West Bengal, Bodorpur, Hailakandi, Batabari of Karimgonj sub-division of Sylhet district, parts of the district Maldoh, the west Dinajpur of North Bengal, Kolkata port of west Bengal, Chobbish Porgonas, Dogonga Goalpara of Sham state, and Noagaon.

Although, about 6.5 km of 4131.912 km boundary between India and Bangladesh is still unmarked, Bangladesh has not had many controversies in boarder margin with its unbalanced, enemy-passion and offensive the large neighbouring country, India. Not only in the British colonist era, but also the Hindu influences the Radcliff’s Award which make a hazard for the Muslim people of Murshidabad, Bodorpur, Hailakandi, Batabari, Karimgonj, Maldoh, Chobbish Porgonas, and Dogonga Goalpara of Sham. In Noagaon-

has a Muslim majority area (38% Muslim, 32% Hindu, and the rest are tribe and Christian). At the end of British rule in India, the Empress (Ranimata) of Tripura wanted to add with the East Pakistan (Bangladesh). About 24% of the total people of that state are Muslim and 52% are non-Hindu, but Tripura had to be included with India.

In the former conspiracy of Christian-Hindu, and colonial Muslim leadership, Bangladesh has to has a ‘truncated and moth-eaten’ and almost a landlocked land which is bounded by three sided of India. Only the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal of the southern side of this country and a small boarder area of Arakan state of Myanmar to the south-east side. Thus, this semi-land locked country has been struggling for its existence with the Indian dominating attitude in corridor issue, withdrawal water of the Ganges at Farakka, the Tipaimukh dam project, Asian Highway, CHTs issue, enclaves controversies, the South Talpotti, maritime boundary delimitation, cultural and economical aggression, and nailing the internal affairs of the country by NGO, the new colonial economical and cultural devils.

3.2.2: Boundary Conflicts between Bangladesh and Neighbours

The border line of Bangladesh is a complicated with a curve shape line, and most of its part is on land-based international devising periphery. In the ninth-tenth portion of international boarder of Bangladesh is with India which is most likely to mono-neighbour political boundary.

Table-3.1: Border Lengths of Neighbouring Countries with Bangladesh (Political)

State	Length (Mile)
West Bengal	1,380
Asham	172
Meghaloya	266
Tripura	560
Mijoram	190
India Total	2,568
Myanmar Total	162
Total sea shore area (Bangladesh)	445
Total Boarder Line	3,175

Source: Land Survey Department, Bangladesh, 1990.

It has curved boundary line into the land of Bangladesh and with India too that made a complexity in the edge of the international political boundary of the country.

The north boarder of Banglabanda boarder area of Tetulia of Panchagarh District has made a separation between the mainland of India and its 'seven sister states' to the north-east corner, and far away to the east, and south east. This narrow strip of landscape ('Shiliguri Corridor') of India is only 25 km width which made two-slices of the Indian mainland and seven sisters states. The international boundary of Bangladesh has shared with natural plain lands, rivers, hills and sea margins (table-2).

Table-3.2: Lengths of Border Area of Bangladesh Across the Natural Features

Natural Features	Length of boarder margin (Mile)
Plain land	1526
Rivers	453
Hills	498
Sea	445

Source: Census of Pakistan, 1961, Vol.2. Page-8.

According to the 'Radcliff Award' policy, the boarder margin has demarked by rivers of India where Bangladesh are affixed at the mid-channel line (thalwag line) of the rivers, but on the bank of the low delta lands of Bangladesh and has a severe river bank erosion which affects on shifting the rivers courses frequently such as Mohurer Char, South Talpotti, Jokigonj, river bank area of river Padma at Rajshahi which makes a territorial dispute between the two countries.

3.3: Evolution of Bangladesh

In political geography, it discusses a chronological sense of space, location, and distance which reveals information on territorial evolution of nations or states, growth of cultural links and political predominance, or lack of it at the given stage of the existence of a country. For instance, Indian sub-continent area has a similar glorified history with a multiple nations, races, and religions which were not nationally united being under the same rule for a long time. Thus, Aryans, Europeans —Portuguese, Frances, British, and Arabs had a tendency to dominate this resourceful and potential large country of south Asia. In addition, Muslim Traders has an earnestly demand for an individual state combining Muslim majority in the south Asia areas that has a well connection with maritime links.

On the basis of *Duel Race* concept of Allahma Iqbal, the Pakistan was established including the West Pakistan and East Pakistan (Bangladesh) at edge of the termination of

British colonial rule. But the discriminations of West Pakistani rulers in social, economical, cultural, political aspects on East Pakistani people (Bengalese) grew up harshly between West Pakistanis and Bengalese (East Pakistani), and it turned to dissatisfaction in political structure of these two Muslim areas with different cultures and languages e.g. Urdu in West Pakistanis and Bengali in East Pakistanis. The location of both two Pakistan (East Pakistan–Bangladesh, and West Pakistan) was nothing but a geopolitical fun of two-wings of a bird without the body which has a 1600 km distance through Indian Ocean. Therefore, the two distinguished lands of Pakistan made two individual independent states —Pakistan (West Pakistan) and Bangladesh (East Pakistan) thorough a true war between the West Pakistani rulers and East Pakistan in 1971. In this blood-shading war, China and USA supports West Pakistan; on the other hands, the big neighbour, India were directly fighting with the West Pakistani soldiers helping the East Pakistani Bengalese to get rid of from the paws of West Pakistani discriminations, and Russia indirectly sponsored the East Pakistanis (Bengalese) for her independent existence in south-east Asia. Hence, East-Pakistan achieved an independent state, and India broke the one of the two wings of the Pakistan which made this big country a unique power in south-east Asian nations as full-filling the commitment of ‘India Doctrine’.

3.4: Causes of Emergence of Bangladesh

Bangladesh proclaimed itself a sovereign state on March 26, 1971, and it achieved the independent on December 16, 1971 thorough a war between West-Pakistan and East Pakistan (Bangladesh) which was formed a united Muslim state of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. Since, the Pakistan formation in 1947, the administrative power was hardly concentrated in the landed-military elites of the West Pakistan. As a result a movement was developed with the demand of a political party, Awami League of East Pakistan for a provincial autonomy in 1960. It was repressed, and reasserted itself strongly in 1970, when President Yahya Khan was obliged by USA pressure to hold first general election of Pakistan. The East Pakistani people support the demand of Awami League, and this political party won 160 of the 162 seats in the East Pakistan constituencies. Subsequently, the West Pakistani political leaders struck back, and order army to arrest the president of the Awami League with showing up unleashing tanks at Dhaka. Thus, a clash between these two had been started where occurred a brutalizing violence troop of 10 million refugees into neighboring country, India, and thorough nine-month crucial war Pakistani armies had to bound to surrender to the Bangladesh-India alliance forces

on December 16, 1971. The followings are the flashpoints that setting up a new country, Bangladesh from the Pakistan Union:

First, the Muslim national concept was especially active in demand of an individual state in British-India, and the people of Pakistan had lost their notion of a state with the religious unity; hence, between the two distinctive regional groups of West Pakistan— the rulers, and East Pakistan— the general people, the deprived people had no other alternative to rescue from the new colonial attitude of West Pakistan, but to show up the dissatisfaction to West Pakistani ruler groups. Consequently, the provincial election of East-Pakistan (1954), and the national general election of 1970, Muslim League and other pan-Islamic philosophy based parties failed to speed up regarding political sense of unity; therefore, the main notion of Pakistan gradually gets faded and inactive, and this concept of religious unity for a state encouraged the way of political separation from West Pakistan to East Pakistan.

Second, while reforming the Muslim state and Hindu state in Indian subcontinent, the Muslim nationalism claimed for a Pakistan uniting Indian Muslims which would not formed from any individual area of the sub-continent apart from the south India more than one large cities of dependent India. In other words, Pakistan had no definite centre, and it was beyond the question after the formation of Pakistan, but it had two individual centres agglomerating at Lahore of West Pakistan and at Dhaka of East Pakistan had internal conflict getting maturity and much intensity in national politics. In addition, the conflict naturally gets huge value between two main regions of Pakistan in question of regional interest and progress, Dhaka turned out to be the centre of constituting and spreading new Bengali nationalism.

Third, the location of capital city displays a substantial role for the national security of the country. For the Pakistan, they set up the Capital at Karachi, a city of West Pakistan, and the military President Ayub Khan transfers the capital to his own province Islamabad in 1959, and in 1962, federal arena of Karachi have included in West Pakistan which ignored the interest the majority people of Pakistan. Moreover, the process that begins to remove the conflict between two rival inner regions of Pakistan through establishing capital in Karachi got obstructed, or rather unfulfilled by the latter step.

Forth, Mr. Jinnah had even demanded for a corridor thorough India linking the two parts of proposed Pakistan before decided for the Pakistan state thinking and assuming the problem of regional inconsistency. In contrast to the practical inconvenience of maintaining such land through large land of India, severe prevention from contemporary Indian Congress and the personal influence of Lord Mount Batten, Mr. Jinnah had left the demand for corridor eventually. However, the Indian government proposed to aid for the transportation of people and goods between the two parts of the country by a treaty of 'remaining the same' what was before the formation of Pakistan. Unfortunately, in the perspective of the communal exciting situation, the connection by road had become unsuccessful between the two parts of Pakistan. Therefore, the Pakistan government established many connections through national ship-transportation organization, national air organization, and telecommunication to overcome the circumstance. The main purpose of connection was good relations, but only accomplished by mass-connection, adequate transportation, attachment does not support enough to serve the purposes.

Fifth, in regard of communication and integrity between two separated parts of Pakistan, the diverse languages work as an obstacle. Bangla was the languages of East Pakistan (Bangladesh) while the West Pakistan had more than one language —Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Beluchi, and Urdu. This barrier of language obstructed the exposure of their thought, and in the question of 'state language' the national integrity faced a crucial situation. Moreover, Mr. Jinnah declared the Urdu as the state language of Pakistan in a public meeting at Race-Course Field on March 21, 1948, and at the convocation program of Dhaka University on 24 March, 1948. He also identified the opposition as enemy of Pakistan. He says:

“Let me make it very clear to you that the state language of Pakistan is going to be Urdu, and no other language. Anyone who tries to mislead you is really the enemy of Pakistan. Without one state language, no nation can remain tied up solidly together and function”.

This declaration of state language of Urdu was a dictatorship attitude of Jinnah which ignored all logics presented by Action Committee in evening meeting at on March 24, 1948. Moreover, he established logic for making Urdu the state Language in the outlook of the convenience in running the state, preventing language-based nationality, and creating a new nation with a neutral yet familiar language. Still it was a matter of regret

and dissatisfaction, and the attempt to keep integrity through language does not end only in accepting Urdu. In addition, from the last breathe of Jinnah to 1971, it had tried to wipe out Bangla language, alphabet, music, literature, as a whole every single sign of Bengali civilization and culture in distinct time and ways from contemporary East Pakistan (Bangladesh). Thus, the language movement was not only a movement for establishing Bangla as state language to run against a conspiring and fantasizing plan, rather the language movement of 1952 was a revolt against the entire elimination of the nation of West Pakistan.

Sixth, In the Federal Government System, the people from different cultures and beliefs may contribute many ways in combining, integrating, and assimilating people whose could play a vital role for the development of the country. However, the Pakistani political history portrays the main function of central government was to suppress the desires of various group of people in different time for the sake of national unity regional difference was always tried to destroy. As a result, the separation gets more and more questionable power-distribution among the centre and provinces that gets a final phase through the *Six Points Movement of Awami League*. The ruling standstill of Pakistan remains unsolved, and they ignored the issue which resulting the present form of Bangladesh.

Seventh, although the Bengali representatives represents 50 % of the central ministry, the Bengalese only held 5% position in higher administration in military, 30% of government administration, 10% of business-trading and investment in industry. Moreover, the Central government of Pakistan had mentally a severe differentiating toward Bengalis, and the Pakistani administrative system was quite colonial on Bengalis too.

Eighth, the matter of economic difference between the two parts of Pakistan becomes very important regarding political debate. No country of the world is equally solvent in every part, yet the populated areas are comparatively much flourished which seems different in case of Pakistan. In comparison to the Bengalis the life-style the people of West-Pakistan was about 60% advanced than the Bengalese of East Pakistan. In the first *Five-Year Plan*, Tk. 98 core was spent in East-Pakistan (Bangladesh) while 188 cores were spent in West-Pakistan. In case of foreign currency, the former portion earns 58% and the latter 42%, and in case of distributing the former gets 27% and the latter 73%. Moreover, about Tk. 18 cores was spent in the arena of defense of East-Pakistan till 1957, and more than 400

cores taka has been spent in West-Pakistan. Till 1958, 530 cores taka had been spent only for the city of Karachi which was not providing any facilities to the East Pakistan. In 1956, information showed that money obtained from central revenue for East-Pakistan was only about 1 taka per head whereas for West-Pakistan the amount was 32 taka per head. Thus, the economical conspiracy of West Pakistanis to the East Pakistani turned the political environment hazardous which made a platform for the achievement of independent of Bangladesh for Bengalese.

Ninth, the anti-Indian code was the fundamental characteristic of Pakistan foreign policy. Since, a stinging relation, Pakistan did not get the opportunity to transport passenger and goods through India, even air-passengers was impeded several times. Moreover, Pakistan could not properly suppress the Bengali Separation Movement on account of the unfriendly India-Pakistan relations. The anti-Indian foreign policy had more significance whereas Pakistan accepted a great deal of military aid enhancing the defense system of West Pakistan and widens the way of permanence and certainty of the monetary betterment of the Punjab.

Subsequently, Pakistan joined SEATO considering India-fright and the communist aggression, specially the Myanmar which had a small border with the East Pakistan (Bangladesh). Moreover, Pakistan took into consideration of the defense to the Eastern neighbouring countries that the incompetence position of Bengalese in the military field and East Pakistan was vulnerable whereas West Pakistan was acted as the safe-guard of East Pakistan. However, the independent form of Bangladesh nullified the hypothesis of Ayub Khan, or a West Pakistani's 'defense burden' (East Pakistan) which was stated that the East Pakistan had a security concern for its neighbour, India, and the East Pakistan was fully depended on West Pakistan for her existences. Thus, Mr. Khan introduced several policies of goals for economic progress, controlling the political power of East Pakistan, and introducing the anti-Indian policies, specially for the security concern of East Pakistan (Bangladesh).

Tenth, in attempt to kept integrity by the means of power practice, Pakistan army operated an unethical and inhumane attack on the Bengalese s on March 25, 1971 which was directed the Bengalese to speed up for a separate state for Bengalese. Moreover, it was a goal for existence relating to the peace, progress, safety, victory-defeat alias of the

Pakistan; therefore, the West Pakistan increased the national defense system for making barrier of defense, and thorough a nine months flood-shading war, Bangladesh (East Pakistan) established its independence from West Pakistan.

Eleventh, the defensive system of a country mainly is depending on the geographical features of the war-field —space, position of forests and marshy lands, organization of rivers and waterway, and weather and climate which play vital roles in defense strategy. The failure of Napoleon to Moscow adventure was likely to the slaughters of ‘General Winter’ in 1812. Moreover, defense planning of Bangladesh is depended on the geo-strategic and geopolitical aspects of the county with special consideration of surrounding position of India, a big neighbour with nuclear power, location of China, the future super power, and other powerful countries of the world, and their unexpected interferences of the internal and external affairs in this prospectus land of south Asia.

Bangladesh is a country along with north coast of the Bay of Bengal in South Asia. India surrounds west, north, and north-east, and Myanmar shares a small border of 280 km at the south-east part of the country where as India shares a boundary of about 3749 km. In addition, the coast line length of the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh is about 720 km. Subsequently, the location of Chittagong sea port at the estuary of the Karnafully river makes this land more significant.

3.5: Environmental Aspects

Bangladesh has a vast plain land at the Bengal basin with several slides of hilly areas at the middle, north, north-east, and south-east areas. The average height of these hilly areas is less than 9 meter. In the north-east hills and hillocks of Sylhet’s are most likely to reduce the height (60-90 meter) whereas the south-east hill and hillocks of Chittagong, Rangamati, and Khagracharis are much higher than the average height (600 meter), and the second highest peak, *Keokradong* (986 m) locates at Bandarban in the south-east border with Myanmar. In the middle areas of the country the Madhupur Gar and Barendra Bhumi has a low height hill and hillocks (6-38 meter). All of these hill and hillocks are covered with plants, herbs, and creepers. Moreover, *Sundarban*, the greatest mangrove forest of the world is an wonderful natural gift with a variety of plants—Sundari, Keora, Hoogly, Gaoua, Garan, Hartaki, Golpata, many kinds of animals —the Royal Bengal Tiger, deer, monkey, crocodile, python, and many species of birds.

Consequently, numerous rivers, their tributaries, and distributaries intersect this country which makes a great trouble for the road and rail connection of the country. Almost every year, seasonal floods and tropical cyclones affects on losses of lives and properties. On the other hand, the fertile soils deposited by rivers have flourished Bangladesh as one of the most fertile plain land in the world. In addition, the arrangement of rivers and channels has a facility to slow down the easy entrance of enemies. Thus, controlling inland-water-way may have a significant strategy to defense the enemies from the easy access.

3.6: Defence Strategies

Bangladesh can take initiative to increase activities to the Bay of Bengal, specially the progress of waterway, and confirm a well connection with the inland-water-way. Moreover, empowerment of the Bangladesh Navy to the EEZ of the Bay of Bengal may control the unauthorised entrance and invasion of the enemies. Furthermore, camouflage can be perfectly used through guerrilla activities in coastal forests. In addition, military establishment in coastal and internal rivers can be effective measures. In addition, the army, navy, and air force of Bangladesh must have a combined strategy for directing process, targeting, fighting with enemies, and it should have an adequate men, machines, and materials to protect the enemies anyway. Moreover, enhancement of armies may have a sustainable policy to reduce the unemployment situation, and these big numbers of armies may work for the security concern of Bangladesh, or they may earn more foreign currency working with the UN mission. Apart from this, other positive points are safety, inactivating enemy attack, and cautiousness. Therefore, Bangladesh may confirm compulsory military training which will not only ensure military qualification in manpower but also help to strengthen internal discipline and national unity.

CHAPTER FOUR: SOME GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES OF BANGLADESH

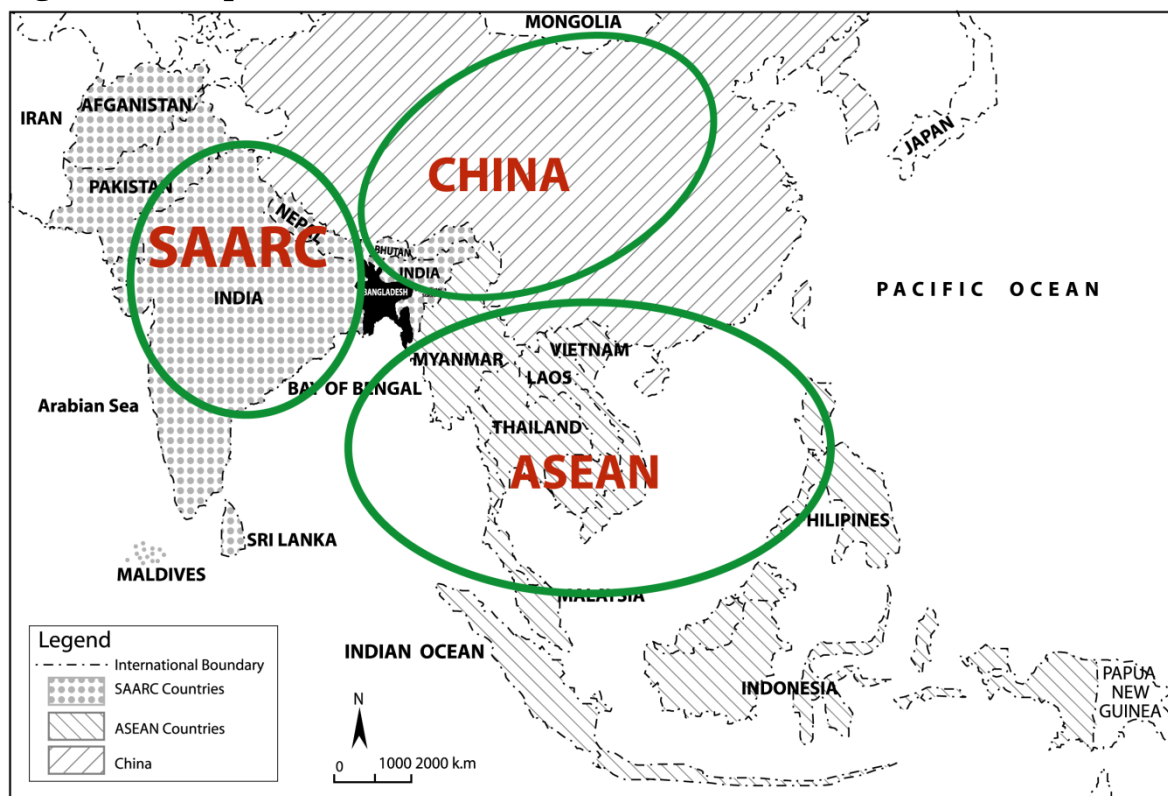
4.1: Geopolitical Issues of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a small developing country with huge population bears a great geopolitical significance of the internal, regional, and international periphery for its geographical location. Among the concern issues of Bangladesh, boundary conflicts with India, Indian's aggression, and BSF's killing of civilians, boundary conflicts with Myanmar, Rivers control (Farakka Barrage) and environmental degradation by India, Tipaimukh dam proposal, CHTs controversy, Myanmar - Bangladesh maritime boundary fixation, Indo-Bangladesh maritime disputes, debate on the claim of the South Talpatti, Asian highway, Trans Asian Railway, Connecting Route, economic and cultural invasion thorough mass media, Myanmar-India gas line dispute, and hindrance of NGOs are burning geopolitical issues of the country that negatively affects the environmental, social, cultural, and political consistency and steadiness. Nevertheless, it increases a corruption which deteriorates laws and orders. Thus, this small country at the north of the Bay of Bengal in the south-Asia plays an important role in terms of geopolitical, geo-strategic, and geo-economical aspects.

4.2: Indo-Bangladesh Territorial Disputes

Indo-Bangladesh boundary conflicts is one the prime geopolitical security concern of Bangladesh which affects on a large number of Bangladeshis at the international boundary between India and Bangladesh and its adjacent areas. Killing people by BSF, snatching wealth e.g. foods, cattle, and households staffs are the common scenario in this confusing enclaves areas. Moreover, these enclaves' inhabitants are living an unsecure life with depriving healthcare facilities, proper education, and rights of citizens.

Thus, a crucial humiliation situation makes their lives uncertain where human rights are yelling it. Hence, it is a crying need to redraw the international boundary between India and Bangladesh, and establish rights of 100,000 people of these areas.

Figure 4.1: Map of SAARC and ASEAN Countries and China

Source : Compiled by Faruk, 2013.

4.2.1: Background of Disputes

At the end of British rule (June 30, 1947), a Bengal Boundary Commission was formed under the supervision of Sir Radcliff that prepares a draft map for partition of British-India. Therefore, this draft map becomes a principle to separate both India and Pakistan on August 14, 1947, and later Bangladesh on December 16, 1971. Conversely, the draft map was an unplanned; moreover, it was purposely ignored the cultural and religious criteria in the region, and it is confined in a political fun of 'Truncated and Moth-Eaten' land country (S.P. Sharma, 1971; B.L. Sukhwai, 1971; Spate, 1971; Tayeb, 1966, and Rob, 2006). Therefore, geopolitical experts viewed that the draft map was nothing but a conspiracy of British-Indian union with Pakistan. Thus, the East Pakistan (Bangladesh on December 16, 1971) formed a semi-locked landmass (Rob, 2006), which is surrounded by India of its 80% territory.

On the basis of the 'Two-Nation Theory' of Quaid-E-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Mr. Radcliff drew a boundary line between the western zone for west Pakistan, middle zone for India, and eastern side for east Pakistan (Bangladesh) which was unplanned, partial

and controversial geopolitical projection, and it splits up an disconcerting land- East Pakistan (Bangladesh). Subsequently, 'Mr. Radcliff Award' of East Pakistan has not engaged within various controversies regarding boundary with its unbalanced, enemy-passion, and offensive large neighboring country, India. In addition, the British colonist and Hindu pressure of India jointly conspire and deprive the East Pakistan to include the Muslim oriented areas e.g. Murshidabad district of West Bengal, Bodorpur, Hailakandi, and Batabari of Karimgonj district with Karimgonj with the East Pakistan. In the same way, the Muslim adapted parts of the district Maldoh, the west Dinajpur of north Bengal, Kolkata Port of west Bengal, and Chobbish Porgona the Muslims of East Pakistan (Bangladesh) includes with India. In addition, the Muslim majority areas e.g. Meghaloy (with Shilong-Shel-Nibas), Garo-hills, and the Khashiya Joyonti hills in spite of being non-Hindu with land strategic hilly zones has included with India. On the other hand, the Dogonga and Goalpara of Sham state, and Noagaon - these three districts are being Muslim oriented areas (38% Muslim, 32% Hindu, and the rest Tribe and Christian) also includes to India. Although, Ranimata of Tripura desires to involve with the East Pakistan having 24% of the total Muslim people, and 52% non-Hindu, they provide Tripura to India. It is the obvious worthless negligence of Muslim leaders for this involvedness of Tripura with India.

The study reveals that India, a big neighbor with nuclear power intentionally overhangs to its small developing neighbors e.g. Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh to establish the concept of 'India Doctrine'. For instance, a few years ago, India sent troops in Bhutan. It seems that India inspires the extremist groups in Nepal against the army and the government, and send military to protect them.

Although, both India and Bangladesh agreed to solve the enclaves issues, but till 6.5 km of 4131.912 km territorial boundary is unmarked. Moreover, 3,506.01 acres of Bangladeshi land occupies India, whereas 111 enclaves of Indian lands own Bangladesh (17,158.13 acres). On the other hand, 51 enclaves (110.02 acres) of Bangladeshi lands is belonged to Indian Territory. Although, the 'Mujib-Indira Agreement-1974' clearly declared to hand over theses unlawful capture of lands to each other but still the issue is yet to be solved. On plain land, most of the boundary between Bangladesh and India is demarked e.g. West Bengal. Moreover, northern and eastern sides of Bangladesh viz. Assam – Tripura territory boundary with land and has hilly surfaces.

Table-4.1: Boundary Distribution of Bangladesh (Political)

State	Length (km)	Total Length (km)
West Bengal	2220.42	
Assam	276.748	
Meghalya	427.994	
Tripur	901.04	
Mizoram	305.71	
India (Total Boundary)		4131.912
Myanmar	260.658	260.658
Marine boundary (Bangladesh)	716.005	716.005
Total (boundary line)		5108.375

Source: Survey of Bangladesh, 1990.

But river bank erosion creates a territorial dispute between Bangladesh and India at Muhurir Chor, South Talpotti, Jokigong Char areas of the Surma river, and Padma chars of Rajshahi which are remarkable examples in boundary conflicts between Bangladesh and India. In fact, boundary of Bangladesh is curved and mono-neighbor international boundary a narrow Shiliguri corridor ('Chicken Neck: 25 km') to keep connection and domination to her north-eastern seven sister states.

4.2.2: Trans Boundary water problems

Fifty seven trans-boundary rivers feed into Bangladesh, carrying a peak water flow of an estimated 1.5 million cusecs (m³per second). These rivers effectively create the world's second largest riverine drainage basin, the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna (GBM) Basin. Since time immemorial, this river system has supported and maintained the agrarian societies of the basin. However, riverine environmental stress is now a challenge to these societies, with long-term consequences for food security, health and development in the region.

As an agrarian and riverine country, Bangladesh is dependent on river water for human consumption, crop irrigation, fisheries, transportation and conservation of biodiversity. With rapid industrialization and population growth in the region, agrarian demand for water is also competing with hydropower and industrial demand. In parts of the GBM Basin there are disturbing signs of decreasing dry-season river flows with serious consequences for agricultural yields and groundwater replenishment. The problem is further exacerbated by water pollution and inefficient water management.

Despite the fact that nearly 80% of Bangladeshi territory lies within the floodplains of the GBM Basin, the country covers only 7–8% of the total basin area. As the lowest riparian state within the GBM Basin, Bangladesh is highly dependent on and susceptible to run-off from upper-riparian states, with 92.5% of the country's surface water provided by out-of-country sources. This dependency manifests in the contradictory and polarizing challenges of water scarcity and flooding caused not only by monsoonal rainfall patterns and variability, but also by the water management practices of neighbouring countries, including planned interventions and anthropogenic activities in general. This gives rise to contentious disputes over appropriation rights and future use.

The flow of a river depends on several variables –some natural, some human-induced. A primary contributor of surface run-off generation is the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall in addition to the area's topography, glacier/snow melt contributions and groundwater retention capacity, which again depend on geomorphology, soil properties and vegetative evapo-transpiration in the catchment area. In Bangladesh, all of these contributors are present and play an influential role. The GBM Basin acts as the final terminus for more than 90% of South Asian monsoonal rains. Thus, the temporal and spatial concentrations of monsoonal rains largely dictate the agro-ecological landscape of Bangladesh, as the monsoon contributes 80% of annual rainfall in Bangladesh over a four-month period spanning from June until the end of September. In times of heavy rainfall, flood-intensifying conditions prevail. Along with alterations in river flow rates and patterns, natural soil erosion processes can create variability in sediment loads within a river, thus contributing to alterations in the hydraulic regime of the river. Erosion can both impede river flow and increase the likelihood of flooding by raising the riverbed. While soil erosion is a natural process, it is often exacerbated by human activity, including deforestation, intensified agricultural practices, mining, urbanization, river diversion and dam construction.

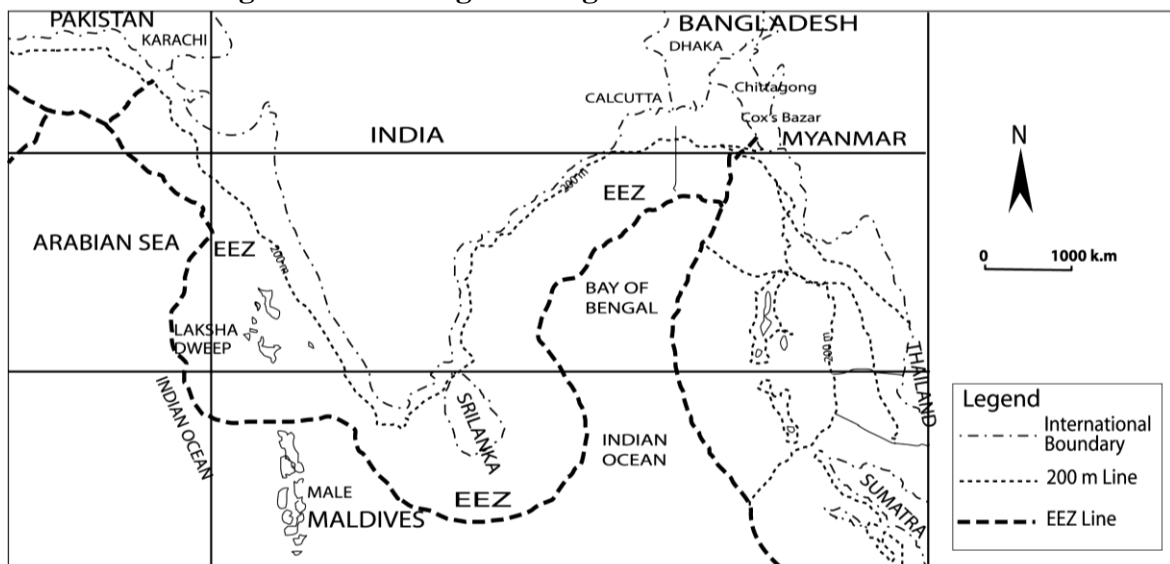
Government efforts to prioritize flood management and enhance resilience date back to 1959, with the founding of the East Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority. Despite these efforts, including the recent implementation of early flood-warning systems, floods continue to be a severe problem in Bangladesh.

4.2.3: Maritime Boundary Issues

4.2.3.1: Indo-Bangladesh Maritime Boundary Delimitation

A controversial fixation of maritime boundary has been done through ITLOS between Bangladesh and Myanmar on March 14, 2012. India has also submitted its maritime survey data, information, and policies to UN to establish its claims of maritime boundary and exclusive economic zone in the Bay of Bengal on 29th June. It has claimed major areas of Bangladesh maritime territory in her reports. As a result, Bangladesh has to lodge formal protests soon before hearing starts against illegitimate claims of India over its maritime boundary and EEZ in the Bay of Bengal. Subsequently, India did not even care to inform Bangladesh about its submission of the documents. In the Indian report submission has claimed unilateral ownership of South Talpatti, and it has an initial demarcation line and EEZ in the deep sea demonstration which ignores the independence and sovereign reality of Bangladesh. Thus, Bangladesh will have bear its burnt for hundreds of years, and it will lose control of a huge maritime territory to India if it fails to challenge India’s illegitimate claim with reliable and authentic documents in its supports.

Figure-4.2: Maritime Jurisdiction in fixation of Marine boundary between Bangladesh and Neighbouring countries



Source : Compiled by Faruk, 2013.

After the liberation of Bangladesh, in 1974 India makes unjust opposition against the demand of Bangladesh for her rightful ownership of the EEZ. As a result, according to the International Water Territory Act, Bangladesh could not make a successful investigation for natural gas and oil in its EEZ at the point of opposition made by India and Myanmar,

even though there had been a prearranged agreement with two companies named Chevron and Exxon Mobile Shell. At that time, on behalf of the Bangladesh Government, Petrobangla had six production agreements with Atlantic Rig Field, Union Oil, Osland, Canadian Superior Oil, BODC and Ena Naktapolin.

According to UNCLOSS-III, between the territorial water and the EEZ afterwards there should be a buffer area of 6 nautical miles. But while determining the buffer area, India and Myanmar demanded 12 nautical miles. Specialists opine that if there is a rise of the swatch of no ground just after the Bangladesh water territory, a huge part of the territorial water of the Bay of Bengal will get included under the territorial water of Bangladesh. Consequently, according to the international water territory rules, the whole oil-gas-prospective zone of the Bay of Bengal will come under the authority of Bangladesh. Thus Bangladesh will be benefited if the water territory is determined as per the depth of the continental shelf.

Bangladesh is interested to have the lawful demarcation in the equity method. According to UNCLOSS-III, both equidistance and equity are acceptable methods. Moreover, the continental shelf of the Andaman and Nikobar islands situated straight towards south from Myanmar have to be taken into consideration. In this situation the water territory has to be determined as per the geological structure of the costal under-water surface. Combined the three points (Bangladesh, Myanmar and Andaman-Nikobar) and the Ganges-Brahmaputra basin formed the Bengal basin that full of natural resources.

Bangladesh put her counter signature in the 3rd UN charter regarding the sea act on July 27, 2001. The succeeding 10 years from the charter within July 26, 2011, Bangladesh has to finalize the survey and settle the matter negotiating with the neighboring countries. In 1974, the territorial water and maritime act was passed in the National Parliament. Again a proposed borderline was drawn in accordance with the primary suggestion of the UNCLOS-III of 1973-82. According to the UNCLOS-III Bangladesh preserves the right to demand 12 nautical miles territorial water and 200 nautical miles EEZ if the surveyed data about the coastal zone is produced before the UNO by 26 July 2011.

The neighboring country India has already submitted its relevant geographical survey documents to the UNO. Here in spite of having few more time in hand in comparison to

the other two neighboring countries, Bangladesh is lagging behind in the progress of survey and data collection. There is still no news about the geographical survey by Bangladesh, whereas, time runs short for submitting documents at the UNO. By presenting proper documents in time Bangladesh can demand for the 200 nautical miles' EEZ. But in case of the failure of Bangladesh, if the UNO accepts the demands of India and Myanmar, Bangladesh will obviously have less than just 35 nautical mile coastal zone left.

Bangladesh still could not finish the survey work due to its insufficient and inefficient logistic facilities, poor diplomacy and ignorance on territorial laws. But the role of the elites and the savior groups are very much questionable. If media had been active, it could have made the politicians and government officials awake for making the matter progressed. Yet, whatever the initiative taken, Bangladesh cannot make a progress in this regard due to the partial attitude of the neighboring countries.

4.2.3.2: Indo-Bangladesh Maritimes Boundary Disputes

Bangladesh is surrounded in three sides by the powerful largely arm-forced neighboring country India. In the 1980s, border controversy with India started at the army invasion at the Purbasha/South Talpotti islands, the raised mouth of Hariabhangra river in the Bangladesh territory. The position, continental slope and hydrological and geological importance of the Andaman-Nikobar islands are also vital issues in determining the water territories.

Among the Indo-Bengal geopolitical disputes, the ownership of South Talpatti, the New Moore Islands are the painful result of the 1947's 'Red Cliff Boundary Commission' which comes into the light after the independent war of Bangladesh in 1971. This small island appeared in the shallow coastal sea of the Ganges delta, which is in the middle of the Indo-Bengal maritime interests of the both countries deeply related with the ownership of this small Island. From the very appearance of the island both countries claim its ownership become by showing various facts and figures and the claim of ownership became an international debate and geo-political dispute.

In January-February, 1971, some fishermen found South-Talpotti Island to the south of Shamnagar police station of Khulna. In 1980, BSF took control over the island, and named it "The New Moore Island" (Rob, 2006). In fact, South Talpatti is an offshore

island in Bay of Bengal which located two km from the estuary of the Hariabhanga river. Its area is only about 10,000 sq m, and gradually it is increasing in size. Although there are no people living in South Talpatti Island because of its unstable geographic condition, both India and Bangladesh claimed this tiny island of their own territory. Moreover, India hosted its national flag on it as a sign of her dominance of this land.

South Talpatti (New Moore Island—Indian name) locates in the continental shelf of shallow part of Bay of Bengal which position is in the middle of the Indo –Bengal maritime line at the Hariavanga river. From the source of LANSAT and ERIM survey satellite, this island located 6000 m away from the nearest coast of Bangladesh and 5500 m away from that of India (LANDSAT TM BAND, Feb, 1988). Its geographical location is from 21° 37' to 89° 12' E which present size (about 8 sq km) gradually increasing. The shape of the island is almost round and when the sea water comes off it looks crescent shaped. The main channel flow of Hadiavanga river running at the west side of South Talpatti Island. The first remote sensing image of the island had been taken by the ERTS satellite of USA in 1974 which average size of the island was only 2500 sq m, and size of the island is increasing which has its present size almost 8000 sq m. Recent satellite data and information show a huge sub merger shoal of the shallow part of the bay is coming to appear as island around the main island (ERTS/NASA, Hyderabad, 1989-90, 1999).

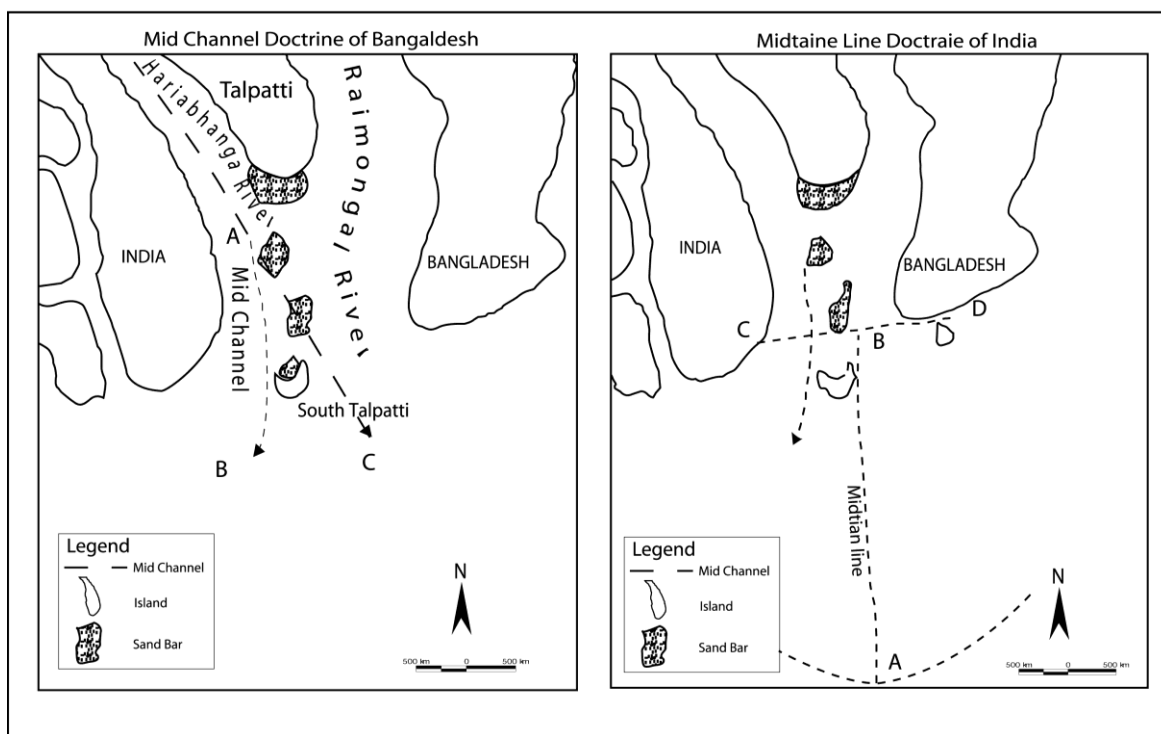
South Talpatti is 3.2 km in length in north –south and almost 2.5 km width in east-west. The main channel flow of the Hadiavanga river no situation is going on in the west side of the island. On the other hand, for this main channel flow some shoals are disappeared from newly formed island. The highest level of the island is only 1.3 meter high from the sea level. A shallow lagoon has been created as a result of gradually decreases of sea level from the northern side of the island. North side of the lagoon is open to the sea, east and a narrow mud wall rounds west sides. The coastal sea around the island is very shallow which is only 3.3 to 5.5 m deep up to 10 km around the island, and the 'Swamp of no Ground' is only 43 km south from the island. In addition, many submerge shoals around the island specially to the north, and north-east sides. The trend of land accretion of that coastal region is toward south-east and this land accretion is very clear in every topographic map of that time as well as the map of present. Thus, there is no possibility to join these shallow islands with the mainland of India.

4.2.4: South Talpotti Island

4.2.4.1: Locational Significance

Although, South Talpotti is a tiny island in the Bay of Bengal, conversely this newly formed land has a trend to extend its new land formation to the north, and north-east words of the coastal areas of Bangladesh which has a vital geo-political importance in the South Asia, and South-East Asia. According to 1960's international conventional of the maritime of India took over 12 nautical miles territorial sea and 200 miles as exclusive economic zone Act" (Sinha, 1977, Rhaman,1988). Bangladesh also took over 12 nautical mile territorial sea according to 1974's 'Territorial water and Maritime Zone act'. But later Bangladesh declares its territorial sea up to 10 fathoms. As a result, the line of exclusive economic zone has been changed for that new base line. For new demand of changes and geological and geomorphologic specialty of the region, the dispute about the territorial sea line and the exclusive economic zone rise is very extreme (Franda, 1982). From the coast of Bangladesh towards the 350km south in Bay of Bengal there is a continental shelf is satisfactorily solving (Islam, 1978 and Ahmed, 1970). In the very recent decades the rate of deltaic land accretion is very high. From the 1970 survey of colonel to till now the total deltaic land accretion in the coastal area of Bangladesh is nearly 650sq.km. The land accretion around the south Talpotti-New Moor will create a new deltaic island in near future in the shallow part of the Bay Bengal. Beside this, in the southern, south-eastern and south western side of the island, there are thousands km of exclusive economic zone which is the unique source of marine resources. The proof is in hand that there are mines of iron, manganese, aluminium and heavy radioactive material (Mallik, 1976).

Subsequently, a vast reserve of minerals like oil and natural gas has found under the continental shelf of Bay of Bengal. Since, South Talpatti is at the middle of the Indo-Bengal International Border line, both India and Bangladesh the ownership of it. Thus, the owner will get a sovereign power and right on the huge area of the Bay of Bengal as it own territorial sea and EEZ. As a result, the area of the territorial sea of Bangladesh will increase more than 1000 sq km which will increase its as usual maritime territory. On the other hands, India may have huge EEZ drawing a maritime boundary line from the New Moore Islam to Nichobor and Andaman Islands which may almost confine international maritime access of Bangladesh thorough sea route.

Figure-4.3: Geographical Location of South Talpatti

Source : Dr. Rob, 2006 and Complied by Faruk, 2013.

According to the moderated international maritime law, the coastal country has a sovereign right of the ownership, and it can consume of all the resources of the adjacent shelf (Rahman, 1988). Therefore, Bangladesh has a chance to gain or to lose the huge area of the Bay depending on the ownership of the Talpatti Island (Mitra, 1981). According to 'Red Cliff Commission', Indo-Bengal boarder has to be marked by the 'mid channel flow' or the 'Thalweg Doctrine', but India does not agree to solve the ownership of South Talpatti through this method.

4.2.4.2: Disute

In 1979, prime minister of India came to a friendly visit in Bangladesh and the President of Bangladesh demand specific discussion about the island and purposes a joint survey to solve dispute about the ownership of the island (Rahman, 1988). Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister of Bangladesh also visited India in the May 1979. In this regards, Indian Prime Minister expressed his commitment to solve the ownership dispute of the island accordingly to the proposal of Bangladeshi counterpart. India also expressed commitment to provide the data about the island to the high commission of Bangladesh at New Delhi. But before 1980, BSF sets up the National Flag of India in the Island and created a

concrete pillar which was fixed with Indian map. On that time, Indian government and the Indian press made propagandas about the ownership of the Island, and they circulated various maps of the Talpatti Island showing the location of the Island in the Indian maritime territory. On the other hand, Bangladesh could not make any campaigns about the ownership of the island due to its poor foreign policy and its internal unstable politics. In 1980, Ananda Bazar a daily published from Kolkata published that a new island will appear near the south Talpatti Island. The existence of a new Island also noted in the Indian govt. survey reports on river of 1975. According to this Survey, the new island will appear in the junction of Hadiavanga river and West Bengal govt. named it as 'Purbasha Deep' (Gulti, 1988).

Bangladesh has some reasons of claiming the South Talpatti in its own maritime territory. Firstly, Redcliff Award was used always for initializing the boundary between Bangladesh and India which is established on the mid-channel flow or Thalweg principle. Bangladeshi administration thinks that solution of the problem by this law is most reasonable because of a long experience. By this law the main stream line of Hariabhanga River is considered to initialize the boundary line among two countries. It is clear that the main stream is flowing through western side of the river that can have an elaborated and specialized survey on the river and land of South Talpatti can prove the truth.

Secondly, Kolkata based Anandbazar newspaper published a sunken island in Bay of Bengal which was situated at the east of South Talpatti. At first India claimed that and named it Purbasha Island. Images collected from satellite proved the existence of those sunken lands. Really that is not a complete island but a submerged shoal. It is now more clearly that this submerge shoal is raising more and more. One day that will make a link from South Talpatti to Bangladeshi main land. As the main stream of Hariabhanga is flowing by the west side of the island, there is no chance to India having the island more nearly linked with the main land.

Thirdly, Bangladesh demanded to get equity on initiating its territorial sea and exclusive economic zone by geomorphologic consideration. Bangladesh has a contrary coastal line. So, Bangladesh has announced its territorial sea thorough 10 fathom abyssal principle already. Bangladesh deserves the right which is given thorough the Continental Shelf

Convention, 1982, and LOS Convention, 1990. By this law based on equity Bangladesh could record South Talpatti Island as own land. But the final initiation of territorial sea and exclusive economic zone will be held based on the location of South Talpatti within 2011. As a result sovereignty on 25000/ 30000 square meter area of sea is depending on the sovereignty on South Talpatti. So, it is a kind of suicide not to give emphasis to get proprietorship of this island because it will create a great loss to Bangladesh.

Fourthly, South Talpatti is a new by formed island of the Ganges delta region. The formation of land or land accretion of this region is going on very actively. The study reveals that it is very close that the main land of Ganges delta will swallow the South Talpatti Island and other surrounding islands. Once, the coastal line was situated to far north from today's place, and gradually it swallowed a large portion of sea. Because of huge amount of gradual river siltation process new lands are forming every moment. In this situation that doubtful island will be included to Bangladesh naturally by the Redcliff award law because South Talpatti will be the part of main land of Bangladesh within a decade. For the reason described above, it is clear that Bangladesh has more tangible stand to get the sovereignty on South Talpatti or New Moore. If the mid-line principle is followed, that will be turned to one side.

4. 2.5: Muhurir Char Issue

Muhuri River is one of the trans-boundary rivers of Bangladesh. The river takes its rise on the Lushai Hills of Tripura in India and enters Bangladesh through Parshuram upazila of Feni district after flowing over the hilly regions of India. As such the river is wild in nature and often causes flash floods. At some places it demarcates the boundary between India and Bangladesh and falls into the Bay of Bengal after dividing the Feni and the Chittagong district. Before 1975, the Indian government constructed an impermeable spur on the river to save the Belonia town of Tripura State from the erosion of the river. But afterwards it has been decided in a meeting of joint river commission that none of the countries can construct spur or groyen on the river. The islands or chars formed in the Muhuri river are partly controlled by India and partly by Bangladesh.

The Muhuri is not wide enough and it is only 150 to 200 metres wide. But the width increases towards the sea. The depth of the river is also very little and people can cross it

on foot during the lean period. Close to the sea, the river is under tidal influence. There is a closure dam on the river about 4 km upstream from the estuary for irrigation purpose and a 20-vent regulator have also been constructed. During high tide, the dam along with the regulator controls the influx of saline water.

The entire problem arose just after the Revision Settlement Survey, 1937, around 23 years later, when more strips of land, the Char, or river islands, came out from the river bed in the years - 1956, 1960, 1961 and 1966 due to heavy silting and erosion of the river's lower course. Subsequently, it was fully matured when the formation of the land was completed in 1974. The total area of this particular strip of char-land is 62.27 acres, based on the 2001 record, that lies in between International Border Pillar Number (IBPN)-2159/3-s to IBPN-2159/48-s (Map -Noakhali, Tripura-79) Reference Number - SQ [means-square]-6267, SQ-6167, SQ-6268, SQ-6191 and SQ-6284, (M[Map/Sheet Number]/7, M/8, scale 1" to a mile). This char-land is not only a plain and flat sandy soil area, but also very fertile and the depth of the river water will not be more than minimum 5 to 15-feet and maximum 10 to 20-feet and is negotiable. For these reasons, Indian cultivators took the opportunity and used it.

Table -4.2: Actual Positions, Facts and Figures of Muhuri River Island

SL No.	Name Of The Disputed Island Areas/Portions	Indian Area (Acres)	Bangladesh Area (Acres)	Near International Border Pillar Number (Ibpn)
01.	Muhuri River Char-I	(3.70+3.30) =7.00	2.40	2159/3-S (Near Nijkalikapur Ibop, Bangladesh)
02.	Muhuri River Char-Ii	37.87	9.00	(Near Right-Hand Side Of Belonia Ibop Of India)
03.	Muhuri River Char-Iii	0.00	6.00	2159/48-S (Near Baurkhuma Ibop Or Mazumdarhat Ibv, Bangladesh)
Total	Muhuri River Islands	44.87	17.40	2159/3-S To 2159/48-S

Source: Border Security Force of India (BSFI), 1999.

Out of the total stretch of 62.27 acres, 44.87 acres fall on the Indian side, and is presently under cultivation by Indian farmers or nationals. The remaining area, measuring 17.4 acres, closer to Bangladesh is under cultivation by Bangladeshi nationals.

Table-4.3: Actual Positions, Facts and Figures of Dam of Muhuri River Area

Sl No.	Location Of Dam Of Muhuri River (Belonia Town Area Of Belonia Sub-Division)	Existing Length (Kilometres)	Area Protected (Hectares)	International Border
01.	Kalinagar To Check-Post	1.07	--	With Bangladesh
02.	Check-Post To Bonkar-Ghat	3.13	1,714	With Bangladesh
03.	Bonkar-Ghat To Bollarmukh (Bsfi-Ibop)	1.20	60	With Bangladesh
04.	Amzadnagar School To Ibpn-2164/4-S	2.69	65	With Bangladesh
Total	Entire Dam Of Muhuri River (Of Belonia Town) With Bangladesh	8.09	1,839	With Bangladesh
05.	Bonkar-Ghat To Baroj Colony	1.47	80	Within India
Grand Total	Entire Dam Of Muhuri River Of Belonia Town	9.56	1,919	With Bangladesh & Within India
<i>Note: As on record 4th September, 2011 and Here, Dams of Muhuri River from Kalinagar to Check-post & Check-post to Bonkar-Ghat are protected 1,714-hactares areas.</i>				

Source: Water Resource Department of Public Works Department, Government of Tripura State, India

This smaller area couldn't be used by the Indian peasants, and is encumbered by the Bangladesh frontier guard, Bangladesh Rifles —BDR, later Bangladesh Border Guard—BGB. Each and every time, when the Indian cultivators wanted to plough or cultivate the Indian side of this strip of land, the BGB prevented them from doing so. As a result of this, the conflict between the two international frontier border guards had become quite a regular feature over the years.

4.2.5.1: The Demands of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is actually demanding or claiming the whole Char (that is, River Island) area of the river that they are called as 'Muhurir Char'. "Before 1999, the peoples of Belonia town and its adjoining areas cremated the dead bodies of their beloved at the cremation ground, in the middle of the Muhuri river's char-land. This particular cremation ground (*Maha Shamshan Ghat*) situated just opposite of Belonia IBOP of BSFI. Because of that, this particular river island area was also locally called 'Shamshaner Char'. But when Bangladesh raised objections, to avoid the evil motive of the BDR(BGB) and the peoples of Bangladesh, the citizens of Belonia town areas shifted their cremation work from Muhurir Char (*Maha Shamshan Ghat*) to *Mohismianh Ghat* (river bank). Then Bangladesh again raised a hue and cry about the Belonia peoples at *Mohismianh Ghat*, it was shifted to Bonkar (Forest Tax)-Ghat (Near Karuna Roy Setu (bridge area), which is around 1 to 1.50

kilometres away from the disputed Muhuri river char-land," narrated the vice-chairperson of the Belonia Nagar (means-Town) Panchayet of Belonia on 30th August, 2011.

There are embankments on both sides of the river. "The embankment of Bangladesh, which was also made for flood protection all along the far bank of the Muhuri river is exactly situated opposite Indian International Border Village (IBV) - I. C. Nagar (that is, IBPN-2157/40-S to IBPN-2159/48-S), skirting BGB IBOPs -Nijkalikapur, Kalikapur, IBV - Nijkalikapur, and further southwards IBV/IBOP - Parshuram. The height of this bund varies from 10 to 15 feet in various places. Nijkalikapur and Mazumdarhat are connected through a foot-track over this bund.

The embankment on the Indian side takes shape from wooden bridge (SQ-6469) on river Muhuri (Map Nowakhali, Tripura-79 M/7 and M/8) towards south-west and further towards east up to International Immigration Custom Check Post (IICCP) of India, in the close vicinity of IBPN-2160. Its height varies from 10/15-feet to 25/30-feet at various points. The Indian side embankment (which covers the portion only of India-Bangladesh international border) is situated at Ward Number (WN)s - 3, 2, 1 and 9 of Belonia Nagar Panchayet Area (BNPA). The length of this particular portion is around 2.5 kilometres. The undisputed portions are WN-10 and WN-13, where there is no embankment, but the area is marsh lands.

4. 2.5.2: Disputed Issues Remain

Today, this particular contentious issue remains to be demarcated. The nature of the river has made it difficult for the two neighbouring sides to reach agreement in a one point or a pact. But the Indian political observers and the masters denied the facts and believed, "The history of flare-ups between the two neighbouring states took place at this particular point always over the issue of a 'strip of land rising out of the bed of the river and its possession', which showed that it had been dictated by the internal politics of Bangladesh that created by the country's (opportunist) political parties and their political masters. It showed that whenever Bangladesh goes through a massive crisis, especially political, social, economic, religious fundamental or other internal, at that time the tension, turmoil and even clash have been intensified in the particular disputed areas of the international boundary".

4.2.6: Border Disputes with India

From the beginning of sovereignty of Bangladesh, India has an inclination of dominating its geostrategic and geo-economical aspects of Bangladesh. For example, India occupied Berubari enclave according to the 'India-Mujib Agreement-1974', but India still purposively occupied the Bangladeshi islands of south Talpotti (from 1975).

Since the independent of Bangladesh, India gradually occupied more than 30 thousand acres of land through a geopolitical technique and policy (BDR, 2001). Among the occupied lands, most of them are shoals and islands at changing trend of boundary rivers. Thus, India occupies the border areas of Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Takurgone, Chapai Nawabganj, sand bars of Tista, Muhurir Char of Bilonia vorder of Feni, Sunamganj border of Sylhet, Shemla of Jessore, and vast areas of Bhurungamari.

Table-4.4: Indian Aggression and Domination of lands in Border Regions

Districts	Affected Area	Dominance of Bangladeshi land by India (Acers)
Khagrachari	Achalong Boarder	1,700
Panchagar	Tatulia Goalgos	1,000
	Boda Debigang, Sadar	1,127
	Boarder region of Tista	1,200
Nilphamari	Demla-satain Boarder	Few thousand acers
Jessore	Sharsha (Ichamoti-Kodala)	570
Sunamgong	Matiraban-Satchari	3,295
Sylhet	Padua-Protapput (Guinghat)	230
	Nayagram (Guinghat)	137
Chapai Nawabgang	Shibgong - Volahat Boarder	6,500
Kurigram	Moshaldanga (Vuringamari)	300
Feni	Muhurir Char	23
Shatkhira	South Talpotti	10,000
Tista Boarder		2,000
Thakurgoan, Dinajpur, Panchagar, Nilphamari Lalmonirhat		10,000
Total Area		About 41,000

Source: BDR, The Daily Independent, The Daily Ittefaq, THE Daily Inqilab, The Daily Ajker Kagosh, The Daily Janakantha, The Daily Shangram, and Rob, 2000.

4.2.6.1: Border Killing

The Military aggression and occupying lands of neighbours, killing people, snatching wealth and cattle, raping and kidnapping girls are common trends of BSF, India. About 15 different places about 30,000 acres land of Bangladesh is illegally conquered by India. About 613 people had been killed by BSF without any reason from December 16, 1971 to October, 29, 2000 (BDR, The Daily Sangram, The daily Inqilab, and The daily Independent).

Table-4.5: Accounts of Killed and Injured Bangladeshis bu BSF (1990-2014)

Year	Killed	Injured	Aggression and Burning
1990	29	19	-
1991	27	17	-
1992	16	13	-
1993	21	-	-
1994	21	14	170
1995	12	9	75
1996	13	18	130
1997	13	18	39
1998	23	19	56
1999	33	38	43
2000	32	26	42
2001	13	10	258
2002	94	42	-
2003	27	41	-
2004	72	30	-
2005	88	53	-
2006	155	121	-
2007	118	82	-
2008	61	46	-
2009	98	77	-
2010	74	72	-
2011	31	62	-
2012	38	100	-
2013	29	79	-
2014	35	68	-
Total			813

Source: The Daily Shangram (29.10.2001), on the BDR-BSF Boarder Summit held on 22-25 October, 2001 at Pilkhana BDR Headquarter, Dhaka, and Rob, 2000.

4. 3: Bangladesh –Myanmar Territorial Disputes

Bangladesh has a 170 km boundary with Myanmar. Most of the territorial boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar are at the hilly regions of Arakan and a small part is in the thalweg or mid channel of the Naf river. About 200-100 years ago, most of the tribal people of CHTs came from this hilly neighbor country. Thus tribal people have many

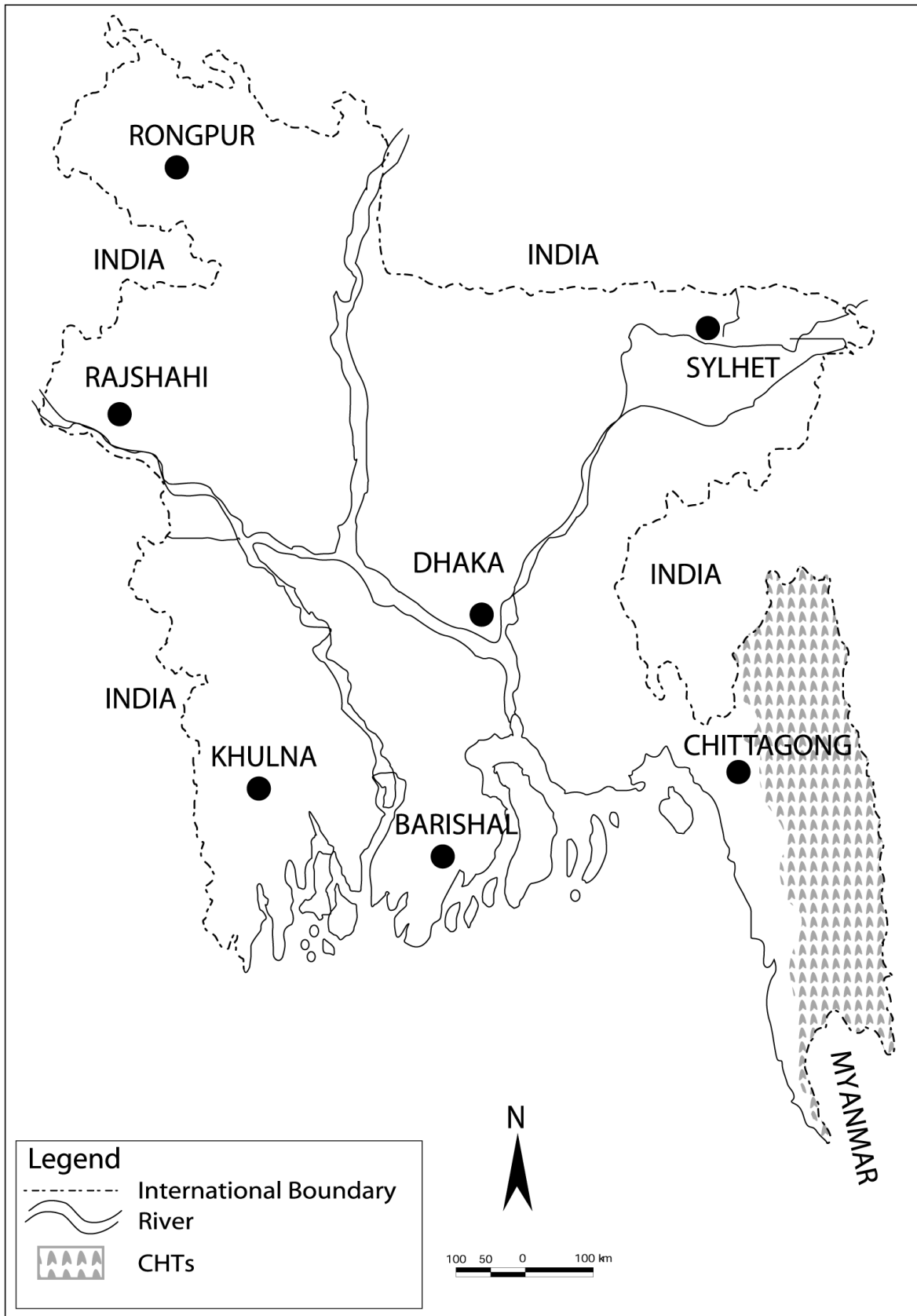
similarities in their culture, religion, and language. In the geopolitical contemporary era, most of the groups e.g. Karen, Rohingya, Shan, Chine in these areas are engaging for liberation movement. Hence, Rohingya issue of Arakan becomes a prime concern in both of the countries which makes ruthless relation between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Hence, Myanmar keeps attention on the area to establish their existence.

4.4: CHTs Issues

CHTs are integrated resourceful parts and parcel of Bangladesh which locates in the south-eastern regions of the country. The Hill Tracts nationalities are ethnically different from plain land people of Bangladesh. The district is at present inhabited by 13 nationalities, each speaking its own distinct dialect. Under British colonial rule they were administered indirectly by the governor of Bengal (Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation of 1900). Except for the deputy commissioner who was British, all other administrative staff including a separate police administration were locally recruited, certain minority nationality chiefs used to help in the administration, while outsiders were not allowed to settle in the district nor could they purchase land. Migration to CHTs was strictly forbidden under the 1900 regulation, as minority nationalities opposition to assimilation by a majority culture was known. Due to location of India and Myanmar in this uneven hilly boarder of CHTs, the extremists group of people always occurance the incidents like killing people, snatching wealth of others, smaglling, supplying drugs, arms and emmunations. The existence of Bangladesh is strictly involved with CHTs that belong one-tenth of sovereign region of Bangladesh. Moreover, it has a huge population than its area that can resettle in the CHTs, less populated potential areas of the country. In addition, prosperous forests, prospective source of water current, suitable lands, plenty of fruits and mineral resources make these CHTs more important parts of the country which can contribute in the future development of the country.

Subsequently, this land is very strategic for security and defense for the Chittagong seaport. In addition, the south-eastern part of the country will be a narrow shaped land without these CHTs. Hence, it is clearly seen that the recourses of the CHTs and the geological aspects of Chittagong areas make this places more potential for Bangladesh. Thus, keeping up the progress of Bangladesh, it needs to maintain a well communication and political collaboration with the CHTs. Geopolitically its significance is immense. In order to preserve the CHTs in terms of sovereignty of Bangladesh, the present study on the geopolitical studies of CHTs bears a huge academic as well as applied significance.

Figure-4.4: Location of CHTs in Bangladesh



Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

4.4.1: Ethnic Groups

Population dominated by Mongolian groups in CHTs. The major Mongolian tribes are *Chakma*, *Tipra*, *Murong* and *Magh*. In fact the Chittagong Hill Tracts host thirteen different tribes who are divided in to nearly hundred different races. In the 1991 census, the total population was enumerated 1.042 million of which 562,597 were male and 479,776 was female. Among them, *Chakma* and *Marma* follow Buddhism, Tripura follows Hinduism, and Mizo and *Bawm* follows Christianity. Some other tribes' people maintain harmony amongst the spirit, animal, and plant.

Table-4.6: Population of the CHTs Region

Tribal group	Main religion	1956	1981
Chakma	Buddhism	140,000	230,000
Taungchengya	Buddhism	15,000	20,000
Marma	Buddhism	80,000	120,000
Sak	Buddhism	2,000	1,500
Khyeng	Community religion	1,000	1,500
Tripura	Hinduism	30,000	40,000
Riang/Brong	Hinduism	7,000	10,000
Mru	Community Religion	17,000	20,000
Khumi	Community Religion	2,500	1,000
Bawm	Christianity	3,500	8,000
Pangkhuia	Christianity	1,500	2,000
Lushai/Mizo	Christianity	500	1,000
Tribal total		300,000	455,000
Bangali	Islam	30,000	290,000
CHTs Total		330,000	745,000

Source: Source: (Statistical year book of Bangladesh, 1982 & preliminary report of population census, B.B.S, 1991).

The pattern of human settlement throughout the CHTs showed much territorial mixtures. Some groups dominated in certain parts of the CHTs e.g. the Chakma in the centre, and Marma in the tract between the Karnafuli river and the Sangu river, and others were concentrated in specific areas e.g. Tripura in the north, and Mru in the south. There was also a distinction between groups living in hill valleys and groups living on the ridges of the hills. Nevertheless, in many places local settlement patterns were highly complex. For example, seven different groups could be found living in close proximity in an area of about 15 by 10 km around the township of Ruma on the Sangu river in the southern CHTs.

Tabel-4.7: Population Growth Scenarios in CHTs

Population (Sq km)	Year				
	1951	1961	1974	1981	1999
Population	290,000	385,000	508,000	708,452	967,420
Population	57	67	100	147	190

Source: Statistical year book of Bangladesh, 1982, BBS, 1991.

The study shows that geopolitical environment of CHTs is an integrated resourceful part of Bangladesh which locates in the south-eastern regions in the country where these different ethnics are living, and speaking in their own dialects. Recently, various kinds of political and geopolitical influences on their groups, e.g. Christen missionary works for Christianity, NGOs works for their own micro credit's interest business, and some Islamic missions work for Islam. Subsequently, Myanmar involves with the Rohingya refugee issue whereas India deals with the extremists' revolutionary groups of CHTs providing shelters, training, and support to control this geostrategic and resourceful hilly areas of the country

4.4.2: Ethnicity Problems

From time immemorial times, CHTs became homes of many tribal groups of people whose are collectively known as *Jumma* Nation, the First Peoples of the CHTs. Among them *Chakma* and *Tanchangya*, *Marma*, *Tripura* and *Reang*, *Mro*, *Lushai*, *Khumi*, *Chak*, *Khyang*, *Bawm*, and *Pankhua* are remarkable. These *Jumma* people are distinct and different from the majority Bengali population of Bangladesh in respect to race, language, culture, religion, and ethnicity. Their main occupation is based on subsistence farming known as *Jhum* (shifting cultivation) in contrast to the rice cultivation system in the plains of Bangladesh.

Similar to other indigenous peoples of the world, the *Jumma* people were also independent before the British colonial period. The British annexed the CHTs areas in 1860 and created an autonomous administrative district known as "the Chittagong Hill Tracts" within the undivided British Bengal. In 1900, the British enacted the Regulation I of the 1900 Act in order to "protect" the *Jumma* people from economic exploitation of non-indigenous people and to preserve their traditional socio-cultural and political institutions based on chief ships, customary laws, common ownership of land and, so on. Throughout the British colonial period the 1900 Act functioned as a "safeguard" for the *Jumma* people, prohibited land ownership and migrations of non-indigenous peoples in the CHTs, and also provided full local autonomy to the *Jumma* people's respect to their practice of customary laws, traditional ways of life and land rights. At the end of colonial rule of British, they included

the CHTs to East Pakistan ignoring the principles of British-India partition e.g. race, language, culture, religion, ethnicity, and wishes of the *Jumma* People. Hence, the interferences of Myanmar and India, and the recent foreign missionary aids make these potential integrated parts of Bangladesh unstable and concern for its existence.

4.4.3: Shanti Bahini and Secession

India is an active power of secessionist movement on CHTs. The study reveals that India organizes the Chakma giving them shelter, training, and serving them arms. Moreover, there is a relation in many geopolitical matters of CHTs with Chittagong seaport. In 1946-47, Indian congress wanted to join the CHTs with a conscious policy about their seven sisters' states. In 1962, India is defeated by China, and China grabbed entire northern side of Assam within 2/3 days. Hence, India was in trouble to send men, materials, services, and support to connect with its eastern seven sister's states. If it would be cut of the geopolitical important 'chicken neck' the Shilliguri corridor next to China, Nepal, even Bangladesh for their geopolitical and security concern, India has to pay a great demerge to lose its eastern provinces, the seven sisters' states e.g. Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal. Therefore, CHTs can be an important place for India to have a back up defense facility to handle the north east region thorough sea route, and it has to use the CHTs to connect with its seven sisters' states from the Bay of Bengal.

Since the CHTs are the only vehicle to make their dream fulfill, India helps *Shantibahini* in all the way. It is proved considering the arms brand of India, it directly connected with them. In fact, India plans to establish their right of entrance to the Bay of Bengal thorough the Indian Ocean. Conversely, it is a vital security concern of Bangladesh which can affects on the existence of the sovereign and Independent Bangladesh, and the Bangladeshis has zero tolerance to deal with any country for its sovereignty. Thus, India's dream to control over CHTs will never fulfill ignoring the independence of 120 million people of Bangladesh.

Although china is the main power of Asia, it deprives from entering in the India Ocean directly. The way is 100 km across from Chumbi valley to the Chittagong port. Therefore, china has to face India with great preparation. If China wants to reach India permanently, they have to enter into the CHTs, and they can easily reach to the Bay of Bengal. The

Mongolian tribal who live in Myanmar, India, Bangladesh can accept them as their natives. The *Shantibahini* of CHTs has a communication with Naga, Lusai, Manipuri, and Assam. Thus, China can organize a communist and secessionist group by training to establish their power in that area.

4.4.4: Settlers

The conflict in the CHTs dates back to when Bangladesh was the eastern wing of Pakistan. Widespread resentment occurred over the displacement of as many as 100,000 of the native peoples due to the construction of the Kaptai Dam in 1962. The displaced did not receive compensation from the government and many thousands fled to India. After the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, representatives of the Chittagong Hill Tracts such as the Chakma politician Manabendra Narayan Larma sought autonomy and recognition of the rights of the peoples of the region. Larma and other Hill Tracts representatives protested the draft of the Constitution of Bangladesh, which did not recognise the ethnic identity and culture of the non-Bengali peoples of Bangladesh. The government policy recognised only the Bengali culture and the Bengali language and designating all citizens of Bangladesh as Bengalis. In talks with a Hill Tracts delegation led by Manabendra Narayan Larma, the country's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman insisted that the ethnic groups of the Hill Tracts adopt the Bengali identity. Sheikh Mujib is also reported to have threatened to forcibly settle Bengalis in the Hill Tracts to reduce the native peoples into a minority.

The CHTs are the traditional homeland of 11 ethno-linguistically and culturally diverse indigenous peoples who collectively call themselves the Jumma. Jumma rural women of the CHT are one of the most disadvantaged rural groups in Bangladesh. Their population is about 425,000 (estimated as half of the total indigenous population of Bangladesh, which is 856,541 in the 2011 census). The CHTs' based Women Resource Network estimates that 90% of Jumma women are rural. There is, however, widespread concern that the CHT's population is underestimated in censuses. There is no disaggregated statistics on indigenous/ non-indigenous women, or for rural or urban women. Nor is there any ethnicity-based data to assess the situation of Jumma women in regard to education, health, access to land, income etc. (this was partially raised in a 2011 doc of CEDAW/C/BGD/Q/7, para 28.4). In terms of education, for example, in the absence of disaggregated data it can only be ascertained that in 2009, the average literacy rate for females aged between 15-24 years in the CHTs was 49%, well below the national average

of 72%. Likewise, the 1991 census showed that the literacy rate in the CHT for females aged 7 years and above was 18%, much lower than the national average of 26%.

4.4.5: CHTs Peace Treaty

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord is a political agreement and peace treaty signed between the Bangladeshi Government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (United People's Party of the Chittagong Hill Tracts), the political organization that controlled the *Shanti Bahini* militia. The accord allowed for the recognition of the rights of the peoples and tribes of the CHTs region and ended the decades-long insurgency between the Shanti Bahini and government forces.

Peace negotiations were initiated after the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh in 1991, but little progress was made with the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the widow of Ziaur Rahman and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Fresh rounds of talks began in 1996 with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, the daughter of Sheikh Mujib. The peace accord was finalized and formally signed on December 2, 1997.

The agreement recognized the distinct ethnicity and special status of the tribes and indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and established a Regional Council consisting of the local government councils of the three districts of the Hill Tracts. The council was to be composed by men and women from the Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Murang and Tanchangya tribes; the delegates would be elected by the district councils of the Hill Tracts. Elected for a five-year term, the council would have authority and responsibility to maintain law and order, social justice and tribal laws, oversee general administration, coordinate disaster relief and management, issue licenses for heavy industries and oversee other development projects. The central government would be required to consult the regional councils over all issues concerning the Hill Tracts. The agreement also provided for the setting up of a central Ministry of Tribal Affairs to be headed by a person of tribal ethnicity to administer the affairs concerning the Hill Tracts. The agreement also laid out plans for the return of land to displaced natives and an elaborate land survey to be held in the Hill Tracts.

After the treaty was signed, the PCJSS emerged as a mainstream political party. The Shanti Bahini insurgents formally laid down their arms and received monetary compensation. More than 50,000 displaced tribals were able to return to their homes. The treaty received a mixed response in Bangladesh. While praised by many who sought an end to violence and to forge peace and development, the accord was seen by others as compromising the territorial integrity of Bangladesh and the assertion that the Chittagong Hill Tracts were an inalienable part of the country. The treaty was also criticised due to the secrecy surrounding the negotiations and allegations by the then-opposition party, the BNP, which claimed that the demands of the Bengali settlers were not accommodated in the agreement and that far too many concessions had been made. However, the BNP promised to implement the accord after its election victory in 2001.

4.5: Rivers: Control and Environmental Degradations

4.5.1: Farakka Barrage

The Ganges delta is one of the largest drainage basins in the world which has a numerous tributaries and distributaries. Moreover, these drainage systems carry huge volume of sands, silt, clay, minerals, and small particles of rocks; and it deposits these loads at the estuary of lower river flow which forms new lands. Therefore, these vast plains of fertile land make the country more potential or agriculture. But, withdrawal water of the Ganges river at Farakka barrage by India adversely affects this land in many ways. For instance, agricultural lands turns into wasteland, and about thirty million people feel insecure in environmental and economical ruin where an estimated annual economic loss of over half a billion dollars in agriculture, fisheries, navigations and industries. In addition, frequent flooding occur huge environmental disproportion which changes the natural flow of the Ganges.

Some short term hindrances can also affect on the environment in this areas. For instance, reduce agricultural products due to insufficient water for irrigation, and it decreases aquatic levels that affects on ecosystem, disturbs water vehicles like boats and vessels, dry tributaries during summer season, and increases salinity intrusion in the southwest parts of Bangladesh.

Since 1951, the former government of Pakistan and India negotiate the water sharing between India and Bangladesh which was totally fruitless. After the Independent of Bangladesh, the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (IBJRC) discussed the matter meeting more than 90 times, but it could not figure out any solution. In April 1975, Bangladesh agreed for a trial operation of water sharing flow at Farakka Barrage for the period from April 21 to May 31 to divert 11,000 to 16,000 cf/s water. But, India is still continuing to divert the full capacity of 40,000 cf/s after May 31, 1975. In November 26, 1976, the U.N. General Assembly adapted a consensus statement directing the parties to arise at a fair and expeditious settlement, and On November 5, 1977, the Ganges Waters Agreement was signed assuring 34,500 cf(s) for Bangladesh in summer season.

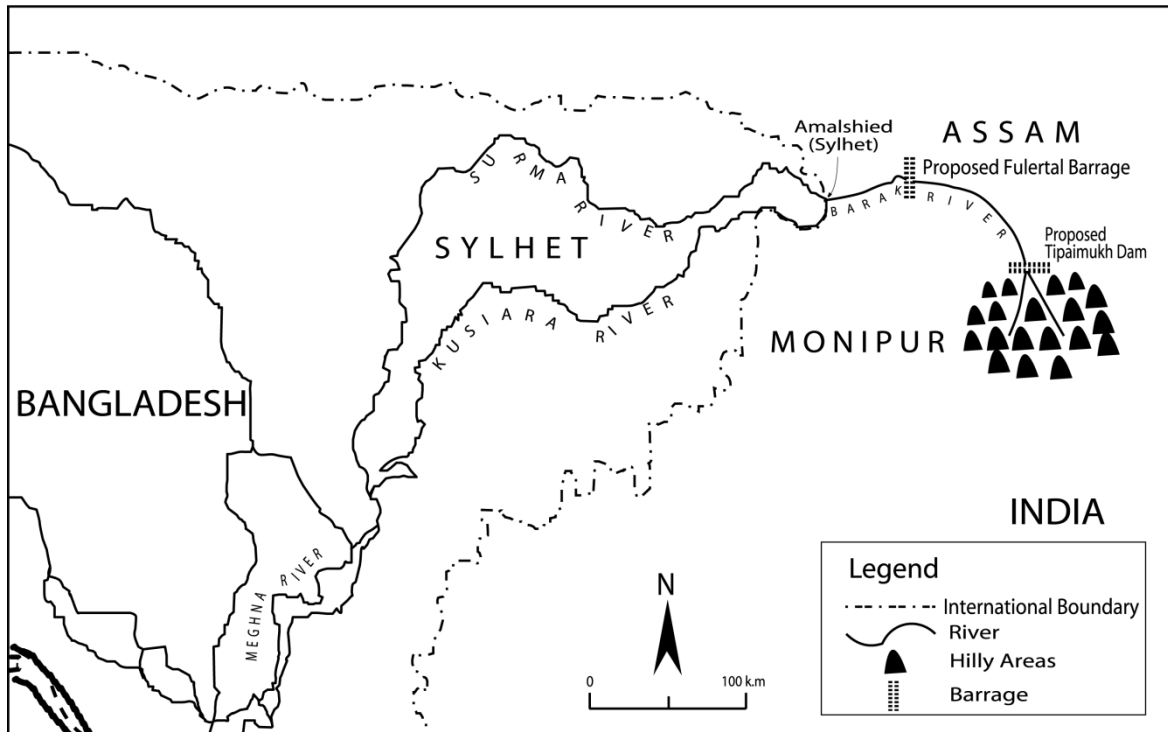
4.5.2: Proposed Tipaimukh Dam

Tipaimukh Dam, a proposed hydroelectric project is going to be built on the river Barak in Monipur state of India. The project has sparked off controversy as India has unilaterally planned to build the Dam just 100 km away from the Bangladesh border, and it is likely to affect two major rivers of Bangladesh e.g. the Surma and the Kushiara. The proposed Tipaimukh dam locates 500m downstream from the confluence of the Barak river and the Tuivai river which lies on the south-western corner of Manipur State ($24^{\circ}14''N$ and $93^{\circ}1.3''E$ approximately). It is a huge earth dam (rock-fill with central impervious core) having an altitude of about 180m above the sea-level with a maximum reservoir level of 178m and 136m as the MDDL (minimum draw down level). The dam was originally conceived to only contain the flood water in the Cachar plains of Assam but later on, it emphasis on hydroelectric power generations having an installation capacity of 1500MW with only a firm generation of 412MW (less than 30 per cent of installed capacity).

Since the river Barak-Surma-Kushyara is an international river and Bangladesh, a lower riparian country, both of India and Bangladesh must have an equitable share of water and an access to the deign details of the project, and plan. The study reveals that the Tipaimukh Dam adversely effects on the environment in the north-eastern part of the country. It will also occurred environmental degradation, economic crisis and hydrological drought causes irreversible damage in this area. Moreover, the Surma and the Kushyara rivers will turn dry and remain of a major portion of the year (Nov-May) disrupting agriculture, irrigation, drinking water supply, and navigation. Moreover, dry months disturbs to recharge the ground water over the years, and it will lower the ground water level like to be affecting all dug wells, shallow

tube wells, as it happened in south western region of Bangladesh as a result of drastic withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka. Thus, agriculture that depends on surface runoff as well as ground water will be affected seriously.

Figure-4.5 : Location of the Proposed Tapaimukh Dam: India



Source: Dr. Rob, 2009 and Compiled by Faruk, 2013

Furthermore, the Tipaimukh dam may affect on the Surma-Kushyara rivers with its network of numerous tributaries and distributaries that support agriculture, irrigation navigation, drinking water supply, fisheries, wildlife in numerous haors and low lying areas in the entire Sylhet division and some peripheral areas of Dhaka division. In addition, a massive environmental degradation will significantly affect weather and climate, turning a wet cooler habitat into a hot uncomfortable situation. The severity of micro-climate causing heat and dry conditions will gradually increase in intensity spreading over a large area over the years. It may be mentioned that rainfall that the area gets for 4 to 5 months and flood water that will be released from the dam for a short period will not be enough to replenish the ground water. Climate and environmental change will force the farmers to reluctantly resort to planting low-yielding drought-resistant crops.

4.5.2.1: Effects due to Tipaimukh Dam

Scarcity of water due to Tipaimukh Dam will cause a huge siltation on river beds, and high rainfall will occur flood in the catchments area of the dam, enormous quantity of sediment-laden flood water which will cause severity of flood in the Surma and the Kushyara channels, and it will further raise the water level causing floods in adjoining additional areas. In addition, navigation in river channels in the Meghna (combined the Surma and the Kushyara) will face depleted water flow and consequent sedimentation and severity of flooding in the wet season. Surface irrigation will be in threat. The Meghna up to Chandpur will suffer from the adverse effects. The Meghna-Padma will have low flow which will accentuate saline backwater intrusion in the Padma channel which is already affected by the low flow for the withdrawal of water of the Ganges at Farakka.

A new report from the International Rivers Network (IRN) "Fizzy Science: Loosening the Hydro Industry's grip on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Research" provides a compelling argument for the international Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change of the UN (IPCC) to undertake further Independent and careful studies for a Special Report that will inform the international community on reservoir emissions of Greenhouse Gases. The table below power densities for the five Indian dams that have recently been completed or are under construction or proposed.

Table-4.8: Power Densities of Some Proposed, Under Construction, and Recently Completed Dams in India

Dam	River	Country	Indicated Capacity(MW)	Area Flooded sq km	Power Density(W/M ²)
Tehri	Bhagirathi	India	2,000	42	47.62
Tipaimukh	Barak	India	1500	311	4.82
Sardar Sarovar	Narmada	India	1450	376	3.86
Polavaram	Godavari	India	960	637	1.51
Indira(Narmada Sagar)	Narmada	India	1,000	908	1.10
*Total submergence in Monipur and Mizoram at EI 180m as per Monipur Gazette Extraordinary Notification of January 20, 2003.					

Source: Monipur Gazette Extraordinary Notification of January 20, 2003.

Dams, like all other man-made infrastructures, are actually disasters for ecological balance of a region. When a dam creates its own rule of ecology, the existing one is demolished. A brief overview of how Dams cause damage to ecological balance can be found here. In this

particular case, there is a couple of major ecological balance shifting. In India, this could potentially cause destruction of a vast forestland. In Bangladesh, it could potentially damage a vast natural wetland, known as Haors. Although, the extent of the damage to the Haors could not be measured at this point, the damage due to inundation is obvious. It is also expected that Tipaimukh dam will also allow ecological flow along with the equitable share of water for the international river, the Barak-Surma-Kushyara for Bangladesh as per entitlement negotiation. The JRC may recommend stopping the construction of the Tipaimukh Dam, and request for a combine survey with a team of both Bangladeshi and Indian experts. This committee will assess the strength, weakness, opportunities, and threats of building the Tipaimukh dam, and it will recommend for a suitable proposal to approve by both of the governments. Obviously, this survey should protect the ecological balance in the Tipaimukh dam areas, and its lower riparian countries. Although, Bangladesh does not get proper shares of the Ganges water at Farakka for proper cooperation of India, the JRC should soon start negotiation on equitable sharing of water according to our entitlement as a lower riparian of the international the Barak-Surma-Kushyara river as per UN Convention. A unilateral withdrawal would be a gross violation of UN Convention that regulates the use of water of international rivers and water courses which may introduce to the Barak-Surma-Kushyara river flow. Therefore, Bangladesh must negotiation with India to avoid a pathetic situation, causing irreversible environmental, economic and hydrological chaos in the north-eastern parts of the country.

4.5.3: Rampal Power Station (Proposed)

The Rampal power station is a proposed 1320 megawatt coal-fired power station at Rampal Upazila of Bagerhat District in Khulna, Bangladesh. It is a joint partnership between India's state owned National Thermal Power Corporation and Bangladesh Power Development Board. The joint venture company is known as *Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (BIFPC)*. The proposed project, on an area of over 1834 acres of land, is situated 14 kilometres north of the world's largest mangrove forest Sundarbans which is a UNESCO world heritage site. It will be the country's largest power plant.

4.5.3.1: Background and Justification

Coal based Power Plant produce electricity by burning coal in a boiler to heat water to produce steam. The steam, at tremendous pressure, flows into a turbine, which spins a generator to produce electricity. The steam is cooled, condensed back into water, and

returned to the boiler to start the process over. A typical 500-megawatt coal power plant creates more than 125,000 tons of ash and 193,000 tons of sludge from the smokestack scrubber each year. Generally, more than 75% of this waste is disposed of in unlined, unmonitored onsite landfills and surface impoundments. Toxic substances in the waste - including arsenic, mercury, chromium, and cadmium - can contaminate drinking water supplies and damage vital human organs and the nervous system. One study found that one out of every 100 children who drink groundwater contaminated with arsenic from coal power plant wastes were at risk of developing cancer. Ecosystems too have been damaged sometimes severely or permanently -- by the disposal of coal plant waste. Much of the heat produced from burning coal is wasted.

A typical coal power plant uses only 33-35% of the coal's heat to produce electricity. The majority of the heat is released into the atmosphere or absorbed by the cooling water. Once the 2.2 billion gallons of water have cycled through the coal-fired power plant, they are released back into the lake, river, or ocean. This is enough water to support a city of approximately 250,000 people. This water is hotter (by up to 20-25° F) than the water that receives it. This "thermal pollution" can decrease fertility and increase heart rates in fish. Typically, power plants also add chlorine or other toxic chemicals to their cooling water to decrease algal growth. These chemicals are also discharged back into the environment.

Burning coal is a leading cause of smog, acid rain, global warming, and air toxics. In an average year, a typical coal plant generates: (1) 3,700,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the primary human cause of global warming--as much carbon dioxide as cutting down 161 million trees; (2) 10,000 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), which causes acid rain that damages forests, lakes, and buildings, and forms small airborne particles that can penetrate deep into lungs; (3) 500 tons of small airborne particles, which can cause chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma, and premature death, as well as haze obstructing visibility; (4) 10,200 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x), as much as would be emitted by half a million late-model cars. NO_x leads to formation of ozone (smog) which inflames the lungs, burning through lung tissue making people more susceptible to respiratory illness; (5) 720 tons of carbon monoxide (CO), which causes headaches and place additional stress on people with heart disease; (6) 220 tons of hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (VOC), which form ozone; (7) 170 pounds of mercury, where just 1/70th of a teaspoon deposited on a 25-acre lake can make the fish unsafe to eat; (8) 225 pounds of arsenic, which will cause cancer in

one out of 100 people who drink water containing 50 parts per billion and (9) 114pounds of lead, 4 pounds of cadmium, other toxic heavy metals, and trace amounts of uranium.

Bangladesh government has decided to establish 1320MW coal-fired power plant at the mouth of the Sundarbans under Rampal upazila of Bagerhat beside the Poshur river which project must need a complete environmental clearance. The Bangladesh government signed a joint venture agreement with India's state-run electricity generation company on 29 January 2012 to implement this project. By implementing this coal-fired power plant the Sundarbans will be affected as the sundarbans situated only 9 km downstream from the project site.

The Sundarbans- the largest single tract mangrove forest has been declared Ramsar Site and Natural World Heritage which is situated in the South-West area (21°31'-22°38' N and 89°00'-89°55'E) of Bangladesh. It is intersected by a network of tidal canals, creeks and rivers. It is covered an area of 6000 km of which 3956kmmangrove forest lands and more than 1800 km water bodies. This tidal forest is very rich with natural resources especially floral and faunal diversity like 66 species of plants, more than 200 fish species, 42 mammals, 234 birds, 51 reptiles, 8 amphibians, a lot of invertebrates etc. More than 500 thousand peoples are directly and indirectly depending on the Sundarbans for their livelihoods as well as socio-economic purposes. Around 200 thousand people go to the Sundarbans regularly to collect the resources for their Impact of coal based power plant at Rampal.

The possible air pollution will certainly be higher than what is anticipated if it uses Indian coal –considered to be of low quality due to the presence of high sulphur in it. The coal of Barapukuria, however, is recognized as a high quality type has less than 1% sulphur. According to the expert opinion, the quality of Bangladeshi coal is also better than that of Indonesia and Australia.

Due to the Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) rules no power plant should be set up within 12km of the Sundarbans buffer zone. The proposed project is 14km away from the Sundarbans. Under the circumstances, it has become imperative to institute an investigation on the estimation of coal-fired power plant hazards and their impacts on the floral and faunal communities of the Sundarbans and surroundings of the project area. The

present study deals on the possible impact of coal-fired power plant of Rampal on the ecological and biological conditions of the Sudarbans and surroundings area of the power plant.

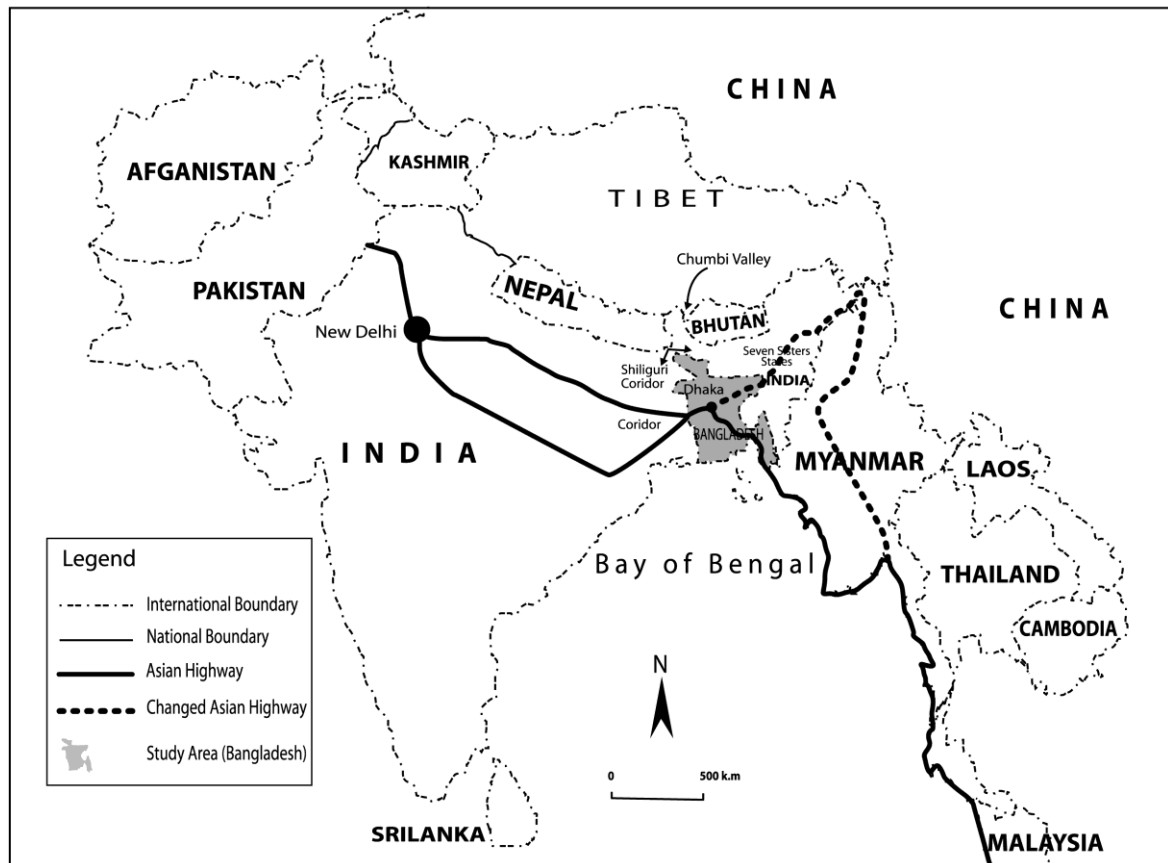
4.6: Asian Highway and Trans Asian Railway

The Asian Highway is a route connection project that connects main cities, and prime seaports of its linked countries. The road segment of AH-1 connects North-East India with Kolkata through a shorter route. The black-circled area is under scrutiny of Bangladesh government, as it argues that it will virtually become a transit route for Indian goods between Western Bengal and North-East seven sister states of India. Conversely, Bangladesh, as a member of ESCAP recommended for a change in route-map to avoid the disputed transit facility of India. India also approached the neighboring countries with a request to get support. In the map-4.7, black route line is objected, and the dotted red one is the newly proposed AH-1. However, this proposal does not accepted by any of the countries India approached for.

4.6.1: Proposed Connecting Route

The communications ministry has recommended three proposed routes to link across Bangladesh which is AH1, AH2, and AH41. First, AH1 (495 km) from India would go through Benapole-Jessore-Dhaka-Kachpur-Sylhet-Tamabil. Second, AH2 (805 km) from India would connect Hati Kumrul-Dhaka-Kachpur-Sylhet-Tamabil. Third, AH41 (752 km) also would come in from India and link Mongla-Jessore -Hati – Kumrul – Dhaka – Kachpur – Chittagong – Cox's Bazaar – Teknaf through to Myanmar. Among the recommended routes the AH-41 route is likely to be a sub-regional road in the Asian Highway's map.

As a member of the organization, Bangladesh pursued the ESCAP to take the AH1 as an international communication network route which links Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China. After analysing the changed of “Asian Highway Map” it reveals that India tries heart and soul to get all facilities this link route and dominate the whole regions as regional *dada*, a strong defensive ambitious powerful country.

Figure-4.6 : Proposed Asian Highway and Trans Asian Railway in Bangladesh

Source : Compiled by Faruk, 2013

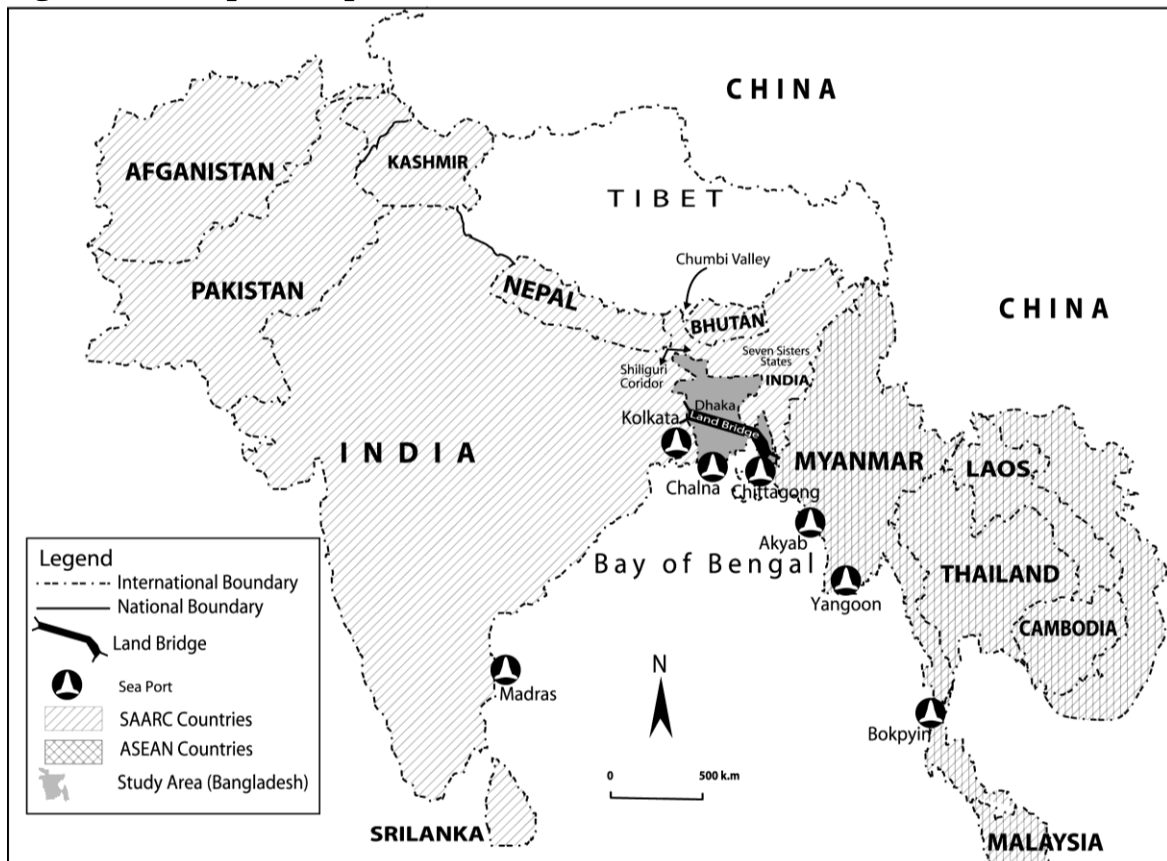
Chittagong Seaport is one of the prime concerns of proposed India-Bangladesh transit issue. The transit proposal of India includes the issue of using Chittagong seaport for carrying the man, machine and materials (MMM) to its seven sister states which makes the transit proposal more complicated, confusing and doubtful of misuse for serving their town interests and purposes. In considerations of Economic Role, geopolitical, geomorphologic and oceanographic realities of Chittagong seaport and proposed transit facilities of different dimension and complexity, the study reveals that the port is not capable enough to transit huge amount of goods of India anyhow. However, the assessment of Satellite Imageries, Maps and Topographic Sheets, Hydrographic and Oceanographic Coastal Bathymetric Charts and Socio-Economic and Geostrategic data and Information shows the incapability of Chittagong sea port.

The study shows that the sabotage of destroying ship at 2/3 places or suitable one place by the enemy or beneficiary power is enough to make inactive the Chittagong port. In 1972-73 the navel technologists had to work hard and soul a whole year to remove the sunken ships and make the seaport Chittagong seaport again. However, this easy maritime route is

economically viable to carry man, machine and materials to Akyab, Yangon of Myanmar, Panang, Kualalumpur of Malaysia, Singapore, Bangkok and South-East Asia, Far East and south of India instead of Asian Highway.

Dhaka proposed a change in the route through Yangon via Teknaf (AH-41 route) instead of the existing route from Tamabil to Benapole or Banglabandha (AH-1 route).

Figure-4.7: Map of Seaports in South Asia



Source : Complied by Faruk, 2013

However, China, the main ally of Bangladesh's 'look east' policy, also turned down the proposal due to time constraints earlier in November. India proposed Asian Highway where the most powerful economic power china is absent. In 1997, India proposed 'Sub-Regional Co-operation Block' with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. In this sub-region only India captures 86% of total people, 96% of army, 95% of economy, and 92% of the geography. So what will be the result is very clear.

4.6.2: Transit and Transshipments

India demands “Transit” from Bangladesh for their business purpose. Their north-eastern 7 sisters are not smoothly communicated with the center and hated too. Indian government consumes both time and money to reach those areas. The central government is always indifferent to those areas. Having been deprived of proper development people of those areas now want their independence. They have formed ULFA, and it is fighting against Indian government with weapons. So, this is very risky for Bangladesh to permit transit for India. It is a fact that India secretly tries to reach their Army and weapons through Bangladesh.

If transit agreement is done with India, India will get a nice chance to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh. In the age of free trade economy India has already established a commercial leadership of 100: 4 with Bangladesh. In the year of 1994-95 India earned about 2767 crore rupees from Bangladesh. A recent survey shows that Bangladesh imported commodities from India worth taka 2767 crore in 1994-95, where Bangladesh managed to export commodities into India worth taka 115 crore, which indicates a trade deficit by tk. 2652 crore. (The Independent, 21 Aug, 1996)

4.6.3: Transportation and Telecommunication

Asia’s approach to integration has tended to be driven by business and economic ties more than politics. Physical infrastructure and increasing trade flows have preceded more formal economic ties. East Asian regionalism has been shaped by the “flying geese” model, which describes the pattern of production in East Asia with a leader country first developing a particular industry, which is subsequently relocated from advanced to developing countries. A prominent example of this is the electronics industry, in which later industrializing countries or “East Asian tigers” (Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan) “learned” the technology from leader Japan. This flying geese model of production diffusion helped establish and consolidate production networks throughout the region, with large-scale investments in infrastructure made by the leading country.

In Asia, infrastructure investments have often been made to facilitate the development and consolidation of production supply chains. As Canuto and Sharma (2011) point out in a recent policy note, “in Asia, physical infrastructure investments and intraregional trade facilitation created an environment conducive to business-driven economic integration.”

Recent economic or development corridors, such as the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) which includes Cambodia, China (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the East West Economic Corridor, which will link Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam are being developed, many with a view to facilitating trade with China. Economic corridors are cooperative initiatives to stimulate certain types of economic activity in a particular geographic location, usually linking several urban areas or production facilities. Corridor programs generally involve the development or improvement of transportation infrastructure, coordinating trade facilitation activities, harmonization of logistics, and the development of related urban areas. A famous example is the Walvis Bay Corridor which links South Africa's Walvis Bay port to Angola, Botswana, and Namibia, giving those three countries access to South Africa's geography and infrastructure, developing regional infrastructure and enabling economies of scale, with the goal of becoming the premier trade route in Southern Africa.

A number of regional trade arrangements (RTAs) in Asia and in Latin America, their associated share of world trade (the proportion of that country's exports plus imports in world exports plus imports) and intraregional trade (the amount that the member countries trade with one another) as a percentage of the RTA's total trade with the world. In Asia, intra-regional trade is becoming increasingly important, largely geared towards the growing Chinese market. Intraregional trade's importance in total trade has grown from 18 to 26 percent for the ASEAN grouping; 40 percent for the ASEAN Plus Three, a free trade agreement that adds the economies 9 of China, Japan, and South Korea to ASEAN. The SAFTA, which represents a relatively smaller share of world trade than ASEAN—2 percent compared to ASEAN's 6 percent in 2010—has seen regional trade nearly double in importance from 2.6 percent to 4.6 percent of total trade.

4.6.4: Gas Pipeline

The lack of convergence in the energy security policies of India and Bangladesh has impacted the outcome of the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India (MBI) pipeline project. This project, envisaged as an important aspect of the energy security policy of India, has in the past failed to accommodate the needs of Bangladesh; this has resulted in an indefinite delay in project implementation. However, recent changes in the energy scenario of Bangladesh have enabled greater convergence in the energy policies of both countries leading once again

to prospects of a revival of the project. Project implementation has also been stalled by the construction of the Myanmar-China pipeline project which consists of dual oil and gas pipelines originate at Kyaukryu port on the west coast of Myanmar and enter China at Yunnan's border city of Ruili. Competition between the two projects stems from uncertainty regarding just how much gas Myanmar actually has for export.

4.6.4.1: India's approach to the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India Pipeline Project

India's energy security policies have often been criticized for their incoherence and lack of planning; however the Integrated Energy Policy (IEP) released by the Indian government in 2006 highlights two underlying principles in India's energy policies: diversification of energy imports, and climate change mitigation. While energy independence remains a long-term aim, import and diversification of supply sources is emphasized in the IEP. Considering the limited energy resources in the country, there seems to be a tacit recognition in India regarding the impracticability of energy self-sufficiency. Since the oil crisis of the mid-1970s, India has sought to avoid an over-reliance on oil from the volatile Middle East by increasingly pursuing active diversification in obtaining energy sources such as oil, gas and even hydroelectricity from diverse regions. India is also a growing power with rising energy demand – at an annual rate of 3.5% between 1990 and 2005. It is therefore under increasing international pressure to contain greenhouse gas emissions: India is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, and has also incorporated the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 with environmentally friendly development as its stated aim.

As of 2005, Bangladesh's commercial energy sources were comprised of approximately 64% natural gas, 26% oil and 10% coal as a result natural gas is the overwhelmingly largest fuel source for commercial power generation in Bangladesh. The 2004 National Energy Plan (NEP) draft and the 1994 NEP outline exploitation of several indigenous energy sources, especially natural gas, but also include coal, oil and hydroelectric power, yet nowhere do they emphasize natural gas imports – let alone through gas pipelines. The reason is because Bangladesh has traditionally had considerable domestic energy sources. Initially, the proposed Myanmar-Bangladesh-India pipeline did not reflect the energy security policies of

Bangladesh while it substantially benefited India. This lack of convergence, combined with less-than-stellar Indo-Bangladesh relations, led to a breakdown of bilateral negotiations in 2005. In intervening years, new research which has pointed towards an impending crisis in the availability of indigenous gas reserves in Bangladesh has prompted an energy policy rethink and led to the 2010 agreement with India for project implementation. Clearly Myanmar-Chinese relations which have resulted in a Myanmar-China pipeline project have reduced the amount of gas reserves available for export to Bangladesh and India. Energy security policy convergence, among and between South Asian nations is important for regional development, but obviously in and of itself insufficient to move the Myanmar-India project off the page and into the field.

Traditionally, the outcome of any negotiations between the two countries has been overly dependent on the political parties in power. Although it needs to be contended that the BNP-led coalition which was in power in 2005 had in the past expressed significant reservations about cooperating with India, other bilateral issues also impacted Bangladesh's approach. Firstly, in the early 2000s, Bangladesh was estimated to have as much as 2 trillion cubic metres of gas. As this grossly inaccurate estimate was widely accepted, the administration in Dhaka did not feel the immediate need to secure external means of supplies. Secondly, unilateral diversions of common rivers, and what is perceived in Bangladesh as indiscriminate killing of her citizens by the Border Security Forces (BSF) of India, were two sources of contention that particularly exacerbated Bangladesh's sense of insecurity vis a vis her larger neighbour and influenced the intricacies of negotiations. In 2005, when negotiations for the MBI were underway, there were 269 reported incidents of abuses perpetrated by the BSF against Bangladeshi citizens, of which 104 resulted in fatalities. In addition, concerns regarding India's river-linking project on common rivers and a bilateral trade imbalance of US\$1534.78 million in 2004 contributed to an overall sense of weariness regarding relations with India.

On the other hand, India had several issues regarding Bangladesh, including allegations of illegal migration and North East Indian militants hiding in remote areas of the Bangladesh-India border. However, it does stand to reason that given the disparities in size and power and India's apparent lack of interest in resolving bilateral issues, Bangladesh was compelled to attach the three conditions to allowing transit to the MBI. In retrospect, it can be perceived that each of the pre-conditions were an attempt to break free of what many in

the country perceived as overt Indian influence and none of the conditions had any direct or even indirect connection to the pipeline.

4.7: Economic Controls

Standing at the end of the twenty one century, the present world is staying at the apex point of excellence of knowledge-science and technology at that moment a little, legging behind, poor, undeveloped country like Bangladesh and the existence of this nation wounded sovereign and the crisis concern culture through a very helpless situation has to be engaged a pathetic agitation for sustaining the own minimum existence. Though the present world is engaged in democracy, humanitarian, human right, women freedom, poverty alleviation, and world environment. Variety of slogans is being uttered from various forums, in various figures and in various gestures. But still today, it is far behind where the world strength nations are being complicated gradually and multimode assault of the attacking countries, terrorism, ruling and exploiting are being more terrible and wild being and ferocity and terrible occurrence and terrible sight.

The powerful and strength states making the world partitioned among them for make their ruling and exploiting long lasting has taken up an effort to launch the 'Uni-polar Global System' or 'New Economic World Order' by the name of 'Free Economy' in whole over the world the existing minority number and legging behind states and to make use the natural assets of various nations as the raw materials of their own industries and making used the millions of men of those countries as the labor of those industries by low wages and by selling the produced goods from these industries to the markets of those poor countries the rich countries are trying to continue their existing capitalism and consuming social arrangement. And behind of it the new one partied 'Free Market Economy' is preserving the consuming philosophy and for interest of extending at they take up effort to affix near and far competitor and enemy-friend and the progress of education, knowledge-science and technology-engineering the western countries and their following strengths are capable to realize easily that enriched with assets and possibilities, the national, language and religious concern viz. regarding culture are co-related and in the situation of land-political and military situation or in the future possibility a bright existing of a nation oriented regions has created united states and the utmost friends of the western and capitalist countries the utmost capable and terrible future is in danger.

The universities of the western countries and in strategy researching centers—from the result of their research of long days they could able from many days ago that the dissimilarity of norm, philosophy and dissimilarity of foundation, weakness and multi-lines of diplomatic quarrel of theoretically, being amazed with mixture of nations the socialist large strength of Soviet Russia might not be sustaining by any means and in the society of socialism or communism might not be existing by the pipe of gun for long days. And with the intelligent persons more other intellect persons have expressed this idea that before 6/7 years from this day the USSR and in the social states of the east Europe has been proved from broken situation like the card-house. After that under leadership of USA, the capitalist world within the 'one centered world arrangement' by the name of 'Free Economy' of the world for creating the 'New Economic World Order' they are trying for the same. And to make factorized their ruling and influential motive in lieu of physical aggression they have selected cultural aggression which is permanent, effective, safe and low troubling method or strategy. And the technique of that cultural aggression they have selected the mass media which is most proper and effective.

As present era is the knowledge-science and engineering has been lying at the apex point; therefore, the electronic media e.g. television, radio, dish antenna, cinema and printed media, newspapers, magazines, and books through highlights any idea, thinking, consciousness, philosophical-norm, and life style could be entered into any country or nation specially in the new and youth generation, and by approaching those median the cultural aggression might be implemented easily and effectively without any obstacle. The aggressive and influential strength in view of factorizing their motive to make the conscious nations respecting and obeying to them at first the self-consciousness, dissimilarity, nationality, religion etc. of that nation- consisting these objects, they took up effort for destroying their own culture and history.

Because of the influential aggressive strength or strengths and their followers and parallel going sub-strengths goodly know that the cultural aspect of a nation will be prevailing up to which the day up to that day those poor, little and legging behind nations do have independence and self-consciousness. Unity regarding religion, language and national concerning, norm, history and historical homogeneity do make strength that little community. That cultural and norm consciousness like a little cat kid the nation named *Chachan* which has encouraged to fight against Russia like a large white bear to achieve the victory . Thus, the influential powers and their companions fear more this cultural

dissimilarity and to ease the same they apply all of their strength which is very successful and effective at present so, they have selected cultural aggression as their easy arm. Though it is fearful and sorrowful today this word is true like day light that Bangladesh which is situated at the South Asia cover with large 12 crores Muslim of people having little measuring of land, is very important in regard of land strategy, almost by all the sides it is surrounded by India, at the mount of the Indian Ocean, by its large neighboring country India with other countries the various aggressive strengths our country has to face multimode aggression.

At present a country India which is the regional strength and high ambitious to be super power in future conducting the direct land-aggression the South Talpatti, Muhurir Char, Singerbeel, Lathitilla which are the part of the sovereign Bangladesh. It has been driven out by Indian sneaky strategy, and occupies Berubari of Bangladesh, but Tinbigha corridor has not been handed over to Bangladesh.

Subsequently, the economical aggression of India has made out whole economy dependent on India. In 1995-1996 AD the Indian goods of 3000 crore of taka (Approximate.) covers the bazar of this commercial market. On the other hand only 4% of goods as per that calculation was sent to India by Bangladesh. For making permanent aspect of this aggressions India wants transit facility over Bangladesh, lease of the Chittagong port. Asian Highway and sub-regional co-operation e.g. various regional and international conspiracy like ball of toshi one by one are being imposed over Bangladesh. The motive is that at the mouth point of Indian Ocean at the meeting point of south-east Asia, the land-strategic, very sensitive, military important in this land, to possess this land permanently they are trying for all the time. As the facilitating strategy India and it's behind inspiring strengths have select the 'Media Aggression" which is the latest strategy of aggression and the utmost effective and resulting techniques of the present world.

4.8: Control People thorough Cultural Domination

Culture is a vital indicator and conjoint aspect of characteristics that recognize any nation state. It involves an average life-behavior, thinking, consciousness, norm, religion, language, food habit, dress, category of housing and construction strategy, social establishments and celebration and festival. Therefore, on the basis of human beliefs, and living styles, and culture is always changing which is extending or increasing its forms; therefore, it is destroying or abolishing its own phenomena. Thus, culture makes the

human behavior polite, decent, and developed which deals with natural and human environmental challenges. It also reforms the person and society and driving the same to prosperity. Therefore, culture is that what we do' or culture is man- made part of environment".

In the modern colonialism, the western countries dominate the most of the third world developing and less developed countries thorough economic and cultural invasions. It's a new form of colonialism to control other nation states. The western Christian world has already extended their socio-economical mission of aggression thorough NGOs networks. Moreover, the 'Mass media', are gradually changing the mentality, thinking-consciousness, dresses, attitude and manner, way of talking (expression), languages of people specially the new generation. Furthermore, printing medias (newspapers, magazines, and books) and electronic medias (satellite TV channels, radio, VCR, video, and internet) severely affects on human minds. Therefore, these new processes destroyed cultural phenomenon, religious values, and language that imitate their own racial identity. Hence, motive of aggression through mass media of western world, and India, a big neighbor of Bangladesh took jointly effort influencing the Bangladeshis which tremendously motivates brains of the young educators. Subsequently, The hundreds of Dailies, weeklies, and monthlies of Bangladesh published features in their printing medias that India and western countries being supported thorough financial aids to various organizations specially Chief executives of newspapers, and magazines. Hence, these newspapers randomly publish the features criticizing the religious beliefs, thoughts, and concepts which demoralized people's minds, and it is adversely affects on society, and country. These NGOs have some technical terms e.g. *fatwabazi*, *nari nirjatan*, *shalish* to deal with challenges relating with the non-educators villagers. In addition, BBC, VOA, CNN, Reiter, *Akashbani* and *Durdorshon* TV programs, and radio channels introduce some untruth news and documentaries such as the western white men's burdens (illogical wars all over the world) to ruin away the religious beliefs and values of the huge illiterate people of the country. Thus, these conspiracy ill motive activities make the people demoralized, disloyal to the government, unorganized, and untrustworthy which make a huge disruption for the normal development of the country. Thus, they indirectly establish their influences and controls over this developing potential country.

4.9: NGO: A New Colonial Onslaught in Bangladesh

NGO is a post expansion of modern theory which comes from the core of political and economical thoughts and concepts. Hence, political and economic nature of development means policy oriented activities and problem-driven projects which make an effective plan in terms of relation to a particular, pre-existing social theory. Subsequently, this development projects initiated both governments and NGOs are driving with this development theory. Thus, development theory itself assumes a framework which predominately set in place by government and political culture to implement it. In a brief, it can be said that NGOs are new colonial concepts that deals of the Western interests guiding its direction and outcome. Therefore, development itself fundamentally reflects the pattern of Western domination (Wikipedia, May 2013). Thus, in the name of foreign aids of western countries interfere in the internal and external political, social, and economical affairs of sovereignty third world developing state nations are moderated new policies of taking control to other countries. In addition, NGOs activities thorough micro credit loans, cultural invasion, and economical interferences in Bangladesh is a modernized way of dominating people like *British Neel Chas* or *Kabliwala's* loan systems (Rob, 2000). Thus, the western influences make unequal power relations between the west and the rest of the developing, and less develop countries in the world, and Western development approaches and conceptions of progress directs the course for the rest of the world (Wikipedia, May 2013).

In the contemporary era of modern colonialism, NGOs are operating Western non-governmental organizations are operating in all parts of the world which work in alleviating poverty and helping the poor people with development efforts. Unfortunately, all of these NGOs have their specific hidden plans and agendas. Thus, Bangladesh, a developing South Asian country has a foreign NGOs density of 3.5 per sq m. Most of the foreign NGOs, under the banner of “development partner”, are working to remove poverty and to bring education, and progress to the country, but their failure to do so has instead brought about an increase in tensions and social problems in the country. As a result, the hidden agendas and their activities act as ‘the revived form of imperialism’ and ‘neo-colonialism,’ a great threat to the entire nation and its majority Muslim population. These organizations bring billions of dollars from western countries to help the poor people, but only 5% goes to the target group, and the rest of money is spent to materialize their hidden agendas to convert the indigenous population to Christianity.

In the 190 years of colonial rule in united Bengal, only 111,426 people were converted to Christianity out of about 50 thousand citizens. The number of Christians in the territory had risen to 400% from about 50,000 (1947) to 200,000 (1971). In the period between 1971 and 1991, the number of Christian converts in Bangladesh has risen from 200,000 to 400,000 which will be to increase the Christian population to 10-12 million in the next 20 years (Islam, 2013).

The methods used by these NGOs are corruption, seduction and conversion. The policy of the most Christian NGOs is to employ Muslims last and to favor those who convert. The idea is to create an economically and educationally influential community of converts who would, in due course, like in many parts of Africa, control all the key sectors of power: education, economy, social policy, bureaucracy and military.

Apart from missionary activities, NGOs are increasingly assuming the role of invisible government having little regards to the history, culture, customs of people and rules and regulations of the government. These NGOs have an invisible powerful parallel government which can unravel any order of the government any time. In some cases, the government of Bangladesh is totally vulnerable to take administrative action of these NGOs irregularities which make the country a huge concern for its security and existence. Moreover, these, overlooking hazardous situation of NGOs create a contradiction with national interests and sovereignty of the state. For example, the NGO Bureau of Bangladesh took action against ADAB (Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh), and SEBA (Society for Economic and Basic Administration) by canceling the registrations on the ground of defalcating of funds and receiving money from a foreign embassy without a prior permission or even the recognition of the government, the foreign embassies allegedly compelled the government to withdraw the cancellation order within three hours of the issuance. After that incident, the government of Bangladesh has refrained from taking action against any NGOs and its executives even though any NGO involving in undesirable activities including violating of government rules and indulging in political activities.

Moreover, some missionary NGOS make sure the compulsory Bible reading for the staffs. Furthermore, these missionary NGOs hire only Christian teachers in its schools, and students must become Christians before giving board and lodging facilities in its hostels.

In some schools, Christianity is a compulsory (Rob, 2000). NGOs also actively demonstrate in political campaigning which is a strict violation of government rule. In many cases, they actively participate in the election, financed them and ran massive political campaigns for them.

The extensive effort to evangelize Bangladesh is the part of an old dream of the Christian world to establish a web of neo-colonization. The Muslim Ummah owes great responsibility to safeguard the Muslims of Bangladesh against the plots, conspiracies and attacks of the Christian fundamentalists and the Christian NGOs on our custom, culture and ideology (Islam, 2013).

4.10: Salient Features of the Discussion

The study reveals that the western world, and India, a big neighbor of Bangladesh have influences the internal and external affairs of Bangladesh many ways. First, India plans to take control over the natural phenomena e.g. river controls (Farakka Barrage on the Ganges river) which already severely affects on the entire south –western part of the country. Second, The B.S.F. of India kidnaps and kills the farmers in the Border areas of Bangladesh. It is a common situation in the boundary areas and its adjacent areas all around the country. Third, About 230 rivers of Bangladesh flow from India, It is upper catchments areas of these rivers. Therefore, India made the Farakka Barrage on the international river, the Ganges that affects on environmental degradation in the entire south-eastern part of the country. Subsequently, India plans to make dam on the Barak river at Tipaimukh of Monipur in India which also will severely effects on environment specially ecosystem of the Sylhet regions and part of Dhaka regions of Bangladesh. It is newly strategy of India to dominate the environmental phenomena of other developing potential neighbors for a dominated tendency. Fourth, In the name of Operation Pushback push the Indian citizens into Bangladesh. India helps and ensures shelters the Chakma extremist of Chittagong. There are evidences for using the Indian marked arms and ammunition by the Peace Committee of Chittagong Hill Tracts. However, there is trade imbalance between Indian and Bangladesh rated 100:4. Fifth, already India occupied the New Moore island at the estuary of the Hariavanga river in the Bay of Bengal in 1980. Moreover, India does not agree with the Red Cliff Boundary Commission method (e.g. mid channel thalweg line) to settle down this issue. Therefore, intend to draw a maritime boundary line from the New Moore Island to Andaman and Nicobor Island that making a

narrow steep maritime access for Bangladesh to communicate with other countries of the world. Sixth, Till now South Talpotti, sovereign islands of Bangladesh is occupied by India (Rob, 1991). The naval Force of India established a permanent base in the maritime boundary of Bangladesh. Muhurir Char in the territory of Bangladesh is occupied by India (Azam, 1996). Ignoring the international law India withdraw the Ganges water at Farakka causes the environmental degradation in the south –western part of Bangladesh and destroying the Ecological balance in the regions (Abbas, 1982, Hossain, 1994). To set up the fence around the boundary of Bangladesh raising the question of commencing the international laws of Boundary delimitation is inhumane and big brotherly behavior with the neighbouring country. Seventh, Asian Highway and Corridor Transit Issue: Chittagong Seaport “Asian Highway” and “Trans Asian Railway” are most popular issues in the politics and economics of Bangladesh. To set up of the Asian Highway project in Bangladesh will be felt in a big hole of geopolitical hidden trap. “Asian Highway” will be a great threat for Bangladesh in respect of its sovereignty and national security. Considering the above findings of the present study Bangladesh should not fall in transit trap for ensuring our own existence in the world. Eight, Bangladesh is our motherland, our land, territory and sovereignty carrying the history and heritage of our earlier generations and preserve the rights and ensure the safety for our future ones. We all have to be united together to solve this international territorial water issue and bring back the legal rights for our nation. The experts, researchers and journalists view on behalf and against the transit issue (Road, Railway, water way) of India through Bangladesh showing the example of European transit facilities. In this situation, they should keep in mind that the India-Bangladesh relation is different from the European countries. India refused the Bangladesh-Nepal proposed transit facilities through Shiliguri corridor (23/24 k. m.). Ninth, India, and western world countries specially USA directly control the maximum markets including variety of productions in Bangladesh with a huge market Of 150 million of people. Moreover, Satellite TV channel, internet, magazines, NGOs activities, and paid brokers (fickle educators) destroying the cultural bonds among the Bangladeshis and Muslim community that ultimately affects the laws and orders, socio-economical situation, and politics. Thus, corruptions increases prizes of goods and services raising, peaceful life of inhabitants driving away forever

Finally, NGOs comes in Bangladesh and other developing countries in Africa in a helping mood, and throw the poor needy people into micro credit loan traps. Thus, the beneficiary

large numbers of people ultimately are losing their shelters, and lands. Moreover, These NGOs hire our own sons of the lands (not *Bargi*, *Kabliwala*, British, and Pakistani rulers) to suck out our blood of life longevity. Hence, it becomes very crucial jocks of life and death of millions of microcredit loan borrowers of Bangladesh to lose their home, land, property, and own existence.

CHAPTER FIVE: GEO-ECONOMICAL STRATEGY AND SITUATION OF BANGLADESH WITH ASEAN AND SAARC

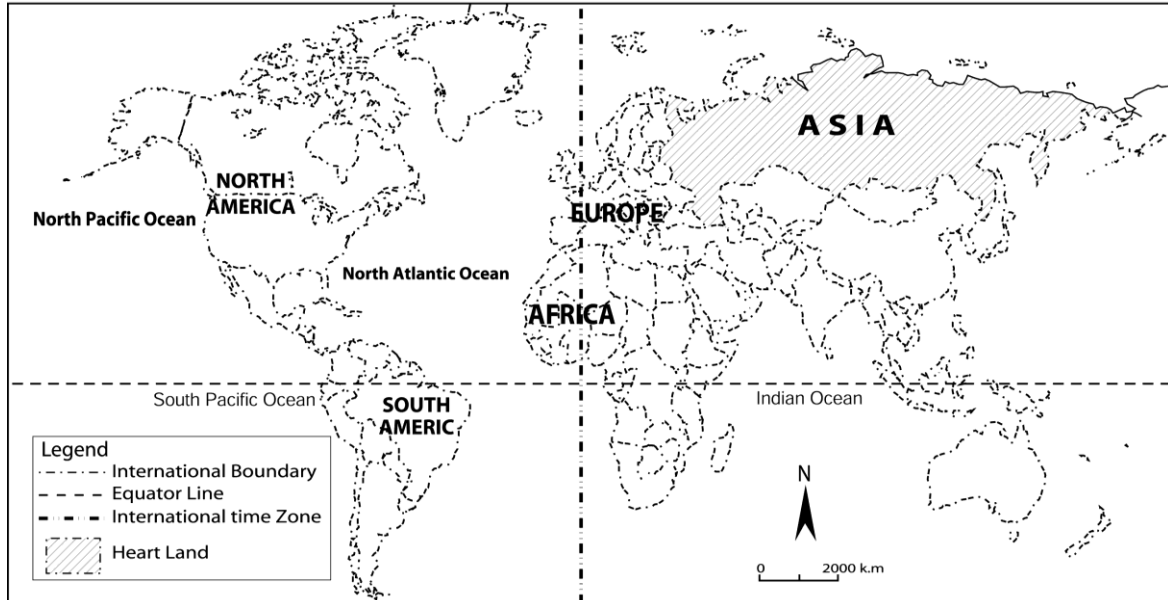
5.1: Introduction

Bangladesh is one of the budding and forthcoming countries of the South and South-East Asia. It plays a vital role between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries of its special geo-economical and strategically significant in south-east Asia. Moreover, the Chittagong seaport is very near to future superpower, China and ‘*Emerging Economic Tigers*’, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. Furthermore, this seaport plays a significance location role from the ancient period of exploration age. Therefore, the Arabs, French, Spanish, Portuguese, British navigators, explorers, Business Company, and rulers took this seaport with a special consideration to travel inland water way of Indian sub-continent. In addition, during the World War II the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal areas especially the Chittagong seaport was a strategic flash point in the South East Asia. Subsequently, the present study reveals that Bangladesh is country with full of potentialities. Therefore, this study will help a lot in order to increase the superiority of our living standard, to take necessary measures of our national security and fulfil systematic guidelines to develop the country immensely.

Bangladesh also stands with an adequate economical potentiality for its huge population, and a very fertile deltaic land of the Ganges, and the Bhramputra basins. Its history is very ancient and glorious which has the oldest tradition, history, cultural and political identity. Geographical location of this country has created a promising, possibility of socio-economic and political enlargement between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries.

5.2: Local Features of Bangladesh

The area of Bangladesh is small, but it is very prosperous in considerations of diversity and geographical views. It bears a significant position as a link-bridge with western countries of the South Asia to south-eastern Asian countries which possess a substantial geopolitical attitude in the south-east Asian countries. Although this country is smaller than the next door neighbours, India and Myanmar, but it is simply bigger than Nepal, and it has a territorial and maritime ways to communicate with other parts of the world thorough internal and external routes.

Figure - 5.1: Political Map of the World 2013

Source: compiled by Faruk, 2013

In a the maritime location, Bangladesh stands on the south-eastern angle of the Indian Ocean adjusting to the Bay of Bengal with a long coastal belt of 720 km from Teknaf to the *Sundarbans*, the world's largest mangrove forest. Furthermore, Bangladesh has 280 km. boundary with Myanmar to the south-eastern regions where it has about 3,750 km boundary with India to the eastern, the northern, and the western side of the country. It also has a significant role as a gateway of Indian subcontinent — India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China. Subsequently, India needs a reasonable and friendly relationship with Bangladesh to maintain a communication with its eastern seven sister's provinces. On the other hand, Nepal, Bhutan, and China may have great opportunities to keep business relationships with Bangladesh, and they can also utilize the Chittagong sea port of Bangladesh with a mutual understanding for their own interest.

5.3: Bangladesh: Natural Characteristics

5.3.1: Land Resources

Roughly 80 % of the landmass, Bengal Plains is made up of fertile alluvial lowlands which are also considered as the Lower Ganges plain. Although altitudes of this land is up to 105 meters above sea level, it occurs in the northern part of the plain, and most land elevations are less than 10 meters above sea level, and its elevations decrease in the coastal south where the terrain is generally at sea level. Hence, low elevations and numerous rivers, water—and concomitant flooding—is a predominant physical feature of land formation in Bangladesh. About 10,000 sq km of the total area of Bangladesh is

normally covered with water, and during the monsoon season, it routinely becomes inundation more areas. Thus, the entire Bangladesh becomes a graceful land of beauty which bears a significance geopolitical flash point with special location with India, neat to China, next to Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Furthermore, Bangladesh has about 5400 km long inland waterway all the year round, and in the rainy season, it adds more 2600 km to transport men and materials from one place to another. In addition, the country has about 7000 km highway and 2870 km railway communication link that links all the major divisions, districts, and police stations. Subsequently, Bangladesh has a well communication with sea ports, inland water ports, boundary lines, islands, hills and hillocks, historical spots, cultural centres for its security concern, and existence.

The country has blessed with about 250 rivers flows that make huge alluvial plain land formations (90%) where grows rice, sugarcane, tobacco, potato, jute abundantly. It also grows various fruits and vegetables that supply a plenty of vitamin, minerals, carbohydrate for healthy body of Bangladeshis. Moreover, the rivers and other water bodies produce huge amount of fishes that supply protein to the inhabitants of this land. Therefore, Bangladesh has a prospect to export the fruits, vegetables, and fishes to Middle-East, Far-East, and Western countries to make more money which can contribute to the national economy of the country.

5.3.2: Climate

Bangladesh has a subtropical monsoon climate characterized by wide seasonal variations in rainfall, moderately warm temperatures, and high humidity. Regional climatic differences in this flat country are minor. Three seasons are generally recognized: a hot, humid summer from March to June; a cool, rainy monsoon season from June to October; and a cool, dry winter from October to March. In general, maximum summer temperatures range between 32°C and 38°C. April is the warmest month in most parts of the country. January is the coldest month, when the average temperature for most of the country is 10°C. Winds are mostly from the north and northwest in the winter, blowing gently at one to three kilometers per hour in northern and central areas and three to six kilometers per hour near the coast. From March to May violent thunderstorms —northwesters produce winds of up to sixty kilometers per hour. During the intense storms of the early summer

and late monsoon season, southerly winds of more than 160 kilometers per hour cause waves to crest as high as 6 meters in the Bay of Bengal, which brings disastrous flooding to coastal areas.

5.3.3: Rainfall

Bangladesh has a heavy rainfall with an exception of the relatively dry western region of Rajshahi, where the annual rainfall is about 160 centimeters. Most parts of the country receive at least 200 centimeters of rainfall per year. Due to location of it, at south of the foothills of the Himalayas, the west and northwest monsoon winds contrast with the hills and hillocks, and it causes a huge rainfall occurred in the Sylhet region, northeastern Bangladesh receives the maximum average precipitation. During the period, 1977 to 1986, annual rainfall in these areas was 328 to 478 centimeters per year. In March, 1986, average daily humidity was 45 to 71 percent where as in July it was 84 to 92 percent. Moreover, about 80 percent of rain falls occur in this country during the monsoon season.

5.3.4: Rivers

There are about 700 rivers which scribbling numerous tributaries and distributaries into the vast Bengal plains that makes this land very fertile for agriculture. These rivers are the main source of surface water for cultivation and the principal networks for transportation. It also provides variety of fishes, an important source of protein, and these are suitable homes for water species. Flooding of the rivers during the monsoon season causes enormous hardship and hinders for development if the country. Conversely, these rivers deposit huge loads e.g. gravels, cobbles, pebbles, small particle of rocks, sand, silt, and clay of its lower lands, and it forms new lands which is very fertile for cultivation. Moreover, rivers drain excess monsoon rainfall into the Bay of Bengal. These rivers can be divided into five major networks that contribute to the land formation, inland water way, homes of fishes and other water living species, and irrigation for cultivation.

First, the Jamuna-Brahmaputra is 292 km long which extends from the northern Bangladesh to its confluence with the Padma. Originating from the Yarlung Zangbo Jiang in China's Xizang, an autonomous region (Tibet) it is flowing thorough India's state of Arunachal Pradesh, and it becomes the Brahmaputra (*Son of Brahma*) which receives waters from five major tributaries of total 740 km in length. The Brahmaputra confluences with the Tista River, and it changes its name as the Jamuna. The Jamuna has an unsteady

flow which frequently has changing its shifts thorough sub-channels and forming sand bars (chars) on its river beds. Therefore, no permanent settlements can exist along its banks.

Second, the Padma-Ganges river system includes 258 km segment, the Ganges, which extends from the western border between Bangladesh and India to its confluence with the Jamuna about 72 km, and 126 km, the Padma runs from the Ganges-Jamuna confluence with Meghna River at Chandpur. The Padma-Ganges is the central part of a deltaic river system with hundreds of rivers and streams —about 2,100 km in length—flowing generally east or west into the Padma.

Third, the Surma-Meghna River system courses from the northeastern border with India to Chandpur, and it joins with the Padma. The Surma-Meghna is about 669 km river course is known as the Meghna at the below of Kalipur city which becomes the longest river in Bangladesh.

The Padma and Meghna join together form the fourth river system—which flows 145 km to the Bay of Bengal. This mighty river network flows through the Ganges delta of about 1.5 million sq km which has numerous channels, tributaries, and distributaries flowing into the Bay of Bengal. It also forms numerous chars, bars in the river bed, and its estuary at the Bay of Bengal.

The fifth river system, the Karnaphuli is flowing through the region of Chittagong and the CHTs which cuts across the hills, and it runs rapidly downhill to the west and the southwest to the Bay of the Bengal. Moreover, the Feni, the Sangu, and the Matamuhari rivers of about 420 km and other river system includes with this river system. Consequently, the Chittagong sea port is situated on the banks of the Karnaphuli, and the Karnaphuli reservoir and dam makes a hydroelectric power system which produces substantial electricity for this regions.

During the annual monsoon period, the rivers of Bangladesh flow at about 140,000 cm/s, whereas during the dry period, it lesser to 7,000 cm/s. Since, water is a vital factor to agriculture more than 60 % of the net arable land, about 91,000 sq km is cultivated in the rainy season despite the possibility of severe flooding, and nearly 40 % of the land is

cultivated during the dry winter months. The river way being used for communication and transportation is about 5400 km, and in the rainy season, more 2600 km river way is added. In comparison, roads have been developed very simple; and there are about 6000 km area used for roads and highways.

From the above discussion, it is clear that Bangladesh is a riverine country with an agro based economy. Rivers play an important role in the economy, agriculture, and communication and transportation system of the country. Highways and railways are also shaped according to the river flow from the north to the south. Although, flood is a big problem alluvial deposition by rivers is filling the rivers up the river bed and creating flood in the rainy season. Bangladesh has 58 trans-boundary rivers which have politically made water issues complicating to resolve- in most cases as the lower riparian state to India. Most parts of Bangladesh are less than 12 meters above the sea level.

5.3.5: Hills and Hillocks

The simply exceptions to Bangladesh's low elevations are the Chittagong hills and hillocks in the southeast, the low hills of Sylhet in the northeast, and highlands in the north (Madhupur, and Vawal Traces) and northwest (Barind Traces). The CHTs is only significant hilly land elevations which effectively stripes a narrow western fringe of the north-south mountain ranges of Myanamar (Burma) and eastern India. The CHTs rise steeply to narrow ridge lines, generally no wider than 36 m, with altitudes from 600 to 900 m above sea level. Among the southeastern part of the hills, Mowdok is the highest elevated land point in Bangladesh which is 1,052 m high from the sea level. The lands between the hills are very fertile, and it makes a narrow stripe from the north to the south. The west of the CHTs, it has few rivers e.g. the Karnafuli, the Matamuhuri, and the Sangu which flows into the Bay of Bengal. These rives rise from a chain of low coastal hills (below 200 m to 350 m), and the west of these hills, there is a narrow and wet coastal plain which locates between the city of Chittagong in the north and Cox's Bazar in the south. These medium and low elevation highlands are highly rich with floral and faunal species of topical ecosystems. Hence, the CHTs have multi-diversity of plants and animals which can be incorporate with 'Ecotourism National Parks'. It has long hiking trails with tall ever green trees and wildlife animals. Moreover, sun shining warm weather in the summer, plenty rainfall in rainy season, variety wild flowers in the spring, short cold touch of winter make this land exceptional for eco-tourism.

5.3.6: Forests

In the south-western parts of the Bangladesh, Sundarbans — the world famous and largest mangrove forests glorify a significance position of intense bio-diversity and mangrove ecosystem. Moreover, the variety of floral and faunal species make the land special in comparison to other forests of the county as well as the forests of other parts of the world. Among them, gamari, chaplish, telsu, jarui, garjan, chandon and sundori are famous for timbers. In the middle of the country, the Madhupur and Vawal Traces, and in the middle east of the country, the Lalmai Hills have a rich bio-diversity of medium height Pleistocene elevated lands, with marshy lands. The shal and gojari are main trees in these forests. Moreover, a small forest grows in the northwestern part of the country, the Borendrabhumi. In addition, the north and north-eastern are famous for growing tea, orange, pineapple, and rubber. Subsequently, the south east part of the country, the CHTs has a bounty of hills and hillocks with a green plants, and creepers which make these entire areas for a suitable eco-tourism environment. About 16% of the total land areas of Bangladesh occupied these forest lands, and it deals with the environmental degradation and natural hazards for a sustainable environment of the huge population of Bangladesh.

5.3.7: Natural Calamities

Almost every year natural calamities e.g. floods, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, and tidal bores, destructive waves, and flood tides rushing up to the estuaries affect the country particularly the coastal belts. Between 1947 and 1988, there were thirteen severe cyclones which caused enormous loss of life and property. On November 12, 1971, wind blew 241 km per hour during the cyclone (Johnson, 1977, p.23), and the height of water from sea level raised 9 m whereas 6 lacks people got died (De Blij, 1978, p. 472).

5.4: Bangladesh: Socioeconomic Features

5.4.1: Area, People and Resources

Bangladesh's area is about 1, 47,570 sq km which makes political administration control easier, but defensive depth of the country is not safe enough to protect the aggression of neighbours invasion. The total population of Bangladesh is about 150 million which was about 87 million in 1981. In fact, Bangladesh is the seventh most populous region of the world. In comparison to population, economic growth and commercial development is very low. Lack of resources has interrupted the way of socio-economic development, and the government imports almost all types of food items except vegetables. Export and

Import volume are unbalanced. However, the garment product of Bangladesh has already become a superior in its position all over the world especially in North America.

5.4.2: Characteristic of People: Ethnic Groups

The populous Bangladesh is the most united region in the Southern Asia where 98% people are Bengali by race, and among them 87% people are Muslims. The nationality of its people is Bangladeshi. Two-thirds of total population is farmers. There are thirteen tribal groups in the CHTs, and the most densely inhabited of them are *Chakmas*. Moreover, the numbers of *Santhals* and *Garos* (Achiks) are remarkable. Human trafficking has been a prolonged problem in Bangladesh, and illegal immigration of *Rohinga Refugee* has remained a cause of friction with Myanmar and India. The total fertility rate is 3.1 children per woman. The population is relatively young; 0-25 age group comprises 60% while 30% are more than 50. Life expectancy is 63 years for both male and female.

5.4.3: Agriculture

Bangladesh has a primarily agrarian economy. Agriculture is the single largest producing sector of the economy since it comprises about 30% of the country's GDP and employs around 60% of the total labour force. The performance of this sector has an overwhelming impact on major macroeconomic objectives like employment generation, poverty alleviation, human resources development and food security. Most Bangladeshis earn their living from agriculture. Although rice and jute are the primary crops, wheat is assuming greater importance. Tea is grown in the northeast areas. Most of Bangladeshis make their living money from agriculture. Although rice and jute are the primary crops, maize and vegetables are assuming greater importance, and the expansion of irrigation networks encourage some wheat producers to switch to cultivate poultry feed.

5.5 : Bangladesh: political Tradition

As a former British colony, Bangladesh still have followed some systems of British and western tradition in its administrative, official, and educational activities. Subsequently, the constitution, criminal and land act are still running like the British system. In international relationship, Bangladesh has a friendly relationship with the UK and the USA in economical and political regards. In 1972, the UK recognized Bangladesh, and it got the membership of Commonwealth. Moreover, Bangladesh keeps strong diplomatic

and commercial relationship with South-Asian countries, America, United Kingdom, Canada, and other European countries. It also plays a major role in UN peace keeping missions. In the war affected African countries, Bangladeshi army hold a positive image which might turn to strong diplomatic and commercial relationship with them in recent future. Though this is a democratic country, it maintains a moderate friendly relation with Russia, a gigantic country with best nuclear power for its vital role during Liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. On the other hand, it also maintains a strong relationship with China and USA though these countries were in the favor of the oppressing power Pakistan. Moreover, in 1972, Bangladesh joined at NAM, and it also affects on the foreign policy of the country.

5.6: Geographical Events and Defense Concerns

Defense is crucially important for both individual and state. Peace, development, economy, security above all existence is fundamentally related with this issue. Preparation for unknown future, technical development and strategy for foreign policy are concern for defense of a country. It means, the defense of a country stands against enemies which make enemies inactive, and it's like a counter attack. In addition, the defense of a country mainly depends on geographical aspects, such as, area, location—territorial and maritime, continental shelf, surface configuration, climate, and environment, structure of land, forest, sea ports, rivers, population, and communication system. In consideration of geographical phenomenon, Bangladesh has a location facility with territorial and maritime access which makes this country potential to communicate with other countries for export and import goods, men and materials, and foreign aids. Moreover, it has huge human resources that contribute in various fields of productions, planning, and policymaking. In addition, the location between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries, this land of opportunities stands as a land bridge.

As a third world developing country, Bangladesh has many limitations for becoming a well organized defense system. However, this country has some location advantage e.g. maritime and territorial open access facilities which deal with the export and import activities, and communication link with other parts of the world. Moreover, as a land-bridge link between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries, this country has a great prospect to use its natural resources, location significance, and human resources for developing and planning the country. Furthermore, an active activity in the Bay of Bengal

must increase to have supreme control over the EEZ (320 km) which will enlarge the area of the country as well as ensure a strong 'Defense Depth'. In addition, well connection of inland water way through its numerous rivers is strategically positive for the defense forces. Subsequently, it is very strategic to establish military camps in the internal and coastal river way. It is also necessary to reform a well coordination among the land force, the navy, and the air force.

Bangladesh is a moderate Muslim country which maintains friendly relations with all the countries of the world, especially with the neighbours, and developed countries from its achievement of independence. Although Bangladesh is economically and defensively poorer than India, it manages this mighty neighbour with nuclear power. Conversely, sometimes the BSF intentionally shoots down the Bangladeshi farmers at the international boundary line between Bangladesh and India whereas the BDG sets up discussions with the BSF to settle the issue. Subsequently, there are about 111(17000 acre) unremarked enclaves of India in Bangladesh, whereas Bangladesh has 51(7000 acre) unremarked enclaves in India. People of these areas are suffering with a non-citizenship problem (The Bangladesh Observer, 22.11.2004). In the UN peace missions, still at the recent age, Bangladesh army has the best performance for its discipline and technical knowledge.

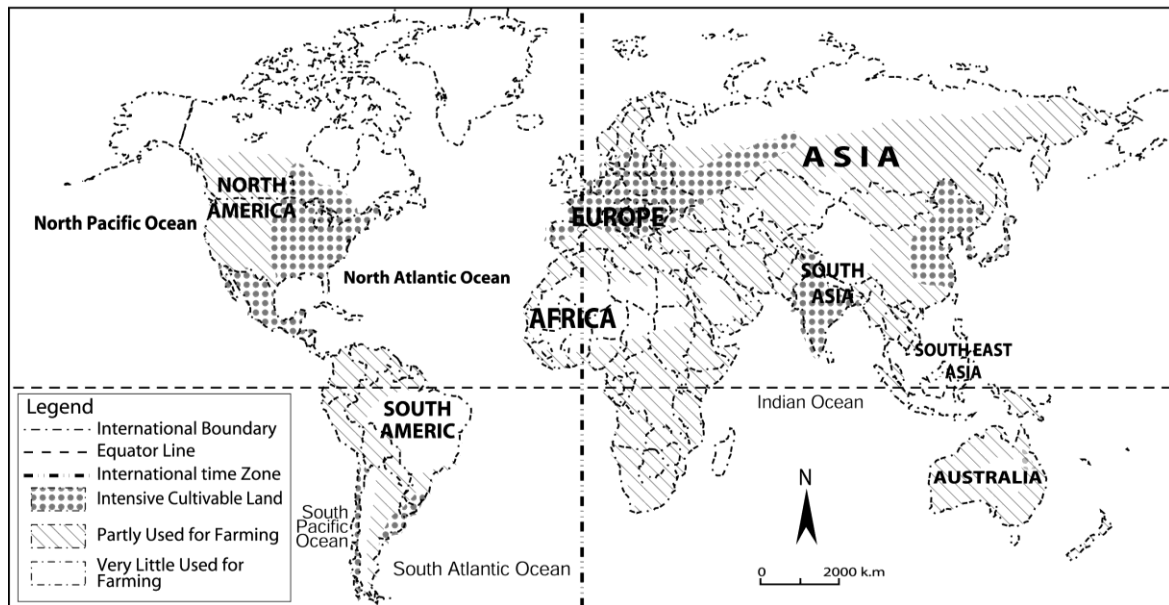
5.7 : Geo-Economical Significances

Though a poor country, Bangladesh has an extremely important geographical position that bridging between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries, and this geostrategic lands glorify as the Gateway of India, near to China, and next to '*Emerging Economical Tigers*'. Therefore, the western developed countries special the USA has a geopolitical intention to control this corrupted, unstable, indiscipline, destructive, but very potential rising country which is very suitable position to deal with the rising super powers e.g. India, and China for the exiting western super powers. Therefore, India wants Bangladesh to keep under control thorough using their powers, techniques, killing educators, destroying cultures, and economy. In the same way the western developed powerful country, using paid brokers, NGOs aids, missionary activities, mass media, economical and cultural invasion to dominate anyhow to establish their own rights.

Subsequently, these ill motive well wishers of Bangladesh always play a duel policy to have a control on political administrations to handle the rising regional challenges. On

February 25, 2009, the entire world had seen a tragedy in BDR (BGB) headquarters. Even the government could not handle the challenges occurring the arms revolution among the BGB high officials and soldiers. Furthermore, Bangladesh has many political parties which has their own specific memorandum and goals to establish government thorough a directly vote of the people for practicing an ideal democratic country. It strongly hated the practices a communism and secularism, but lack of transparency and accountability, this country is still far behind to achieve its goals to have a taste of 'Sonar Bangla'.

Figure - 5.2: Landuse Map of the World 2013



Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

Conversely, Bangladesh may take some short term and long term plan to deal with these unexpected challenges. There are about 1500 people live in every sq km the government with its entire sister concerns have to take immediate steps to make people conscious of the ill effects of taking more issues. Government may also arrange some training programs to develop skills of man power, imposing new methods and techniques in agricultural, confirm a safe and secure tourism sectors, encourage exporters, privatization of business to cope with the rising crisis in the contemporary age of globalization. In addition, Bangladesh has an important position according to its geo-political significance. Hence, this is the time for Bangladeshis to take over illiteracy, corruption, terrorism, new colonial invasion, and disorder politics for the sake of the democracy, security, and economic development of our motherland, Bangladesh.

5.8 ASEAN and SAARC

Geographically, Bangladesh bridges between the SAARC- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and Afghanistan, and the ASEAN— Indonesia, Malaysia (*Emerging Economic Tigers*), Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines.

Table-5.1: Aims and Objectives of SAARC and ASEAN Blocks

SAARC	ASEAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Agriculture and Rural Development ❖ Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Meteorology ❖ Health and Population Activities ❖ Transport ❖ Human Resource Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ economic growth, social progress and cultural development for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations ❖ promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries ❖ promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields; ❖ provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres; ❖ agriculture and industries, transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples; ❖ promote Southeast Asian studies; and ❖ maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations

5.8.1: ASEAN

The ASEAN is a geopolitical and economic organization of ten counties of the South-East Asia which formed on August 8, 1967. The members of the ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia (*Emerging Economic Tigers*), Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines. Its aims deal with accelerating economic growth, social progress, cultural development among its member countries, and it has other aims include protection of regional peace and stability, and opportunities for member countries to discuss differences peacefully. ASEAN is locates at the eastern part of Bangladesh.

Table-5.2: Vital Indicators of the ASEAN Countries

Country	Area (Km ²)	Population (Million)	GDP USD (Billion)	Per capita Income (PPP)	Military Expenditures USD (Million)
Indonesia	1,900,000	246.9	778 .00	3,556.79	4,740
Myanmar	677 000	52.8	51.93	1,300	
Thailand	513,115	66.79	365.60	5,473.75	1,775
Malaysia	329,847	29.24	555.92	10,380.54	1,690
Vietnam	329,247	88.78	1.42	1,595.81	3,200
Philippines	300,000	96.71	456.42	4,682	1,348
Laos	236,800	65.22	20.78	3,100	11.04
Cambodia	181,035	14.86	43.20	2,776	112
Brunei	5,765	3.81	21.91	50,440	290.70
Singapore	716	5.312	327.56	61,046	7,129.40
Total	3,796,525	670.422	1801.54	5,930 Ave	

Source: World Bank, 2012.

5.8.2 SAARC

The SAARC stands for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation which is an organization of the South Asian nations with eight countries. The member countries of the SAARC consists of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Afghanistan which deals with the promotion of economic, and social progress, cultural development with the South Asian region, and it also for friendly relationship and cooperation with other developing countries. Subsequently, it handles economic, technological, social, and cultural development emphasizing collective self-reliance. SAARC is located in the western side of Bangladesh.

Table-5.3: Vital Indicators of the SAARC Countries

Country	Area (Km ²)	Population (Million)	GDP USD (Billion)	Per capita Income (PPP)	Military Expenditures USD (Million)
India	3,287,590	123.7	184.2	1,489.24	26,500,
Pakistan	803,940	179.2	231.2	1,290.36	7,800
Afghanistan	652,000	29.82	18.03	619.59	122.4
Bangladesh	147,570	154.7	115.6	747.34	836.9
Nepal	147 181	27.47	19.41	706.65	104.9
Sri Lanka	65,610	20.33	59.42	2,923.13	606.2
Bhutan	38,364	7.4	1.78	2,398.91	8.28
Maldives	298	3.3	2.222	6,566.65	45.07
Total	4,995,372	545.92	631.862	2,777 Ave	

Source: World Bank, 2012.

5.8.3: Comparative Discussion-ASEAN and SAARC

In the table 5.4, it shows a comparative status between the SAARC and ASEAN regional blocks. The total area of these two blocks is 87.92 m km², and total population is 1216.34 m. The GDP of these areas is USD 24.34 trillion, and per capita average income (PPP) is \$4353.5. Between these two regional block ASEAN (5,930 Ave)'s per capita income is more than the SAARC (4353.5 Ave) region.

Table-5.4: Comparison Status between the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks

Country	Area (Million Km ²)	Population (Million)	GDP USD (Trillion)	Per Capita (PPP)(Ave)
SAARC	49.95	545.92	6.32	2,777
ASEAN	37.97	670.422	18.02	5,930
Total	87.92	1216.342	24.34	4353.5

Source: World Bank, 2012.

Hence, the SAARC and ASEAN regional blocks contain about 122 billion people with a huge potentiality of growing economy by using its manpower, natural resources, and tropical climate, And Bangladesh is playing a bridging role between these two uprising developing countries for using and exchanging the raw materials e.g. jute, tea, animal skins, rubbers, natural gas that helps to add more energy for further development.

Table-5.5: Land use in the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks

Country	Cultivated Land (%)	Arable Land (%)	Permanent Crops (%)	Other Lands (%)	Total Land Area (Km ²)
SAARC					
Afghanistan	6.83	6.55	0.28	86.34	191,300
Bhutan	2.73	2.3	0.43	94.54	47,000
Pakistan	25.28	24.44	0.84	49.44	796,095
Maldives	43.33	13.33	30	13.34	300
India	51.63	28.20	2.8	17.37	3,287,240
Bangladesh	68.6	15.53	6.25	9.62	147,570
Nepal	16.92	16.07	0.85	66.16	143,181
Sri Lanka	29.2	13.96	15.24	41.6	64,740
	30.57	15.02	7.09	47.30	
ASEAN					
Laos	4.35	4.01	0.34	91.30	230,800
Brunei	2.95	2.08	0.87	94.10	5,270
Singapore	2.94	1.47	1.47	94.12	683
Thailand	34.47	27.54	6.93	31.06	513,120
Burma	16.23	14.92	1.31	67.54	676,578
Philippines	35.67	19	16.67	28.66	299,764
Vietnam	27.07	20.14	6.93	45.86	331,210
Malaysia	23.0	5.46	17.54	54	328,550
Cambodia	21.03	20.44	0.59	57.94	176,520
Indonesia	18.07	11.03	7.04	63.86	1,919,440
	18.58	12.61	5.97	62.84	
China	16.13	14.86	1.27	83.87	9,640,821

Source: World Almanac, 2012

In consideration of land use of the SAARC and ASEAN countries, it shows most of the land of SAARC and ASEAN countries have been used for cultivation to grow crops. It mainly produces the raw materials viz. rice, rubber, spices, etc. In this regards, Bangladeshis have an opportunities to take lease the arable land of ASEAN countries to grow crops by using the Hybrid technology invented of BIRRI and cheap labours. Moreover, the ASEAN and SAARC block can make sure the movement of high skilled expertise among the countries to develop their education system and technical institution rather send the students to other countries to be educated. And, due to geo-strategic and geographical location of the country, Bangladesh can play a vital role to bridge these regional blocks of south and south –east Asia.

CHAPTER SIX: GEO-STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF BANGLADESH IN ASEAN AND SAARC

6.1: Introduction—Geo-strategy

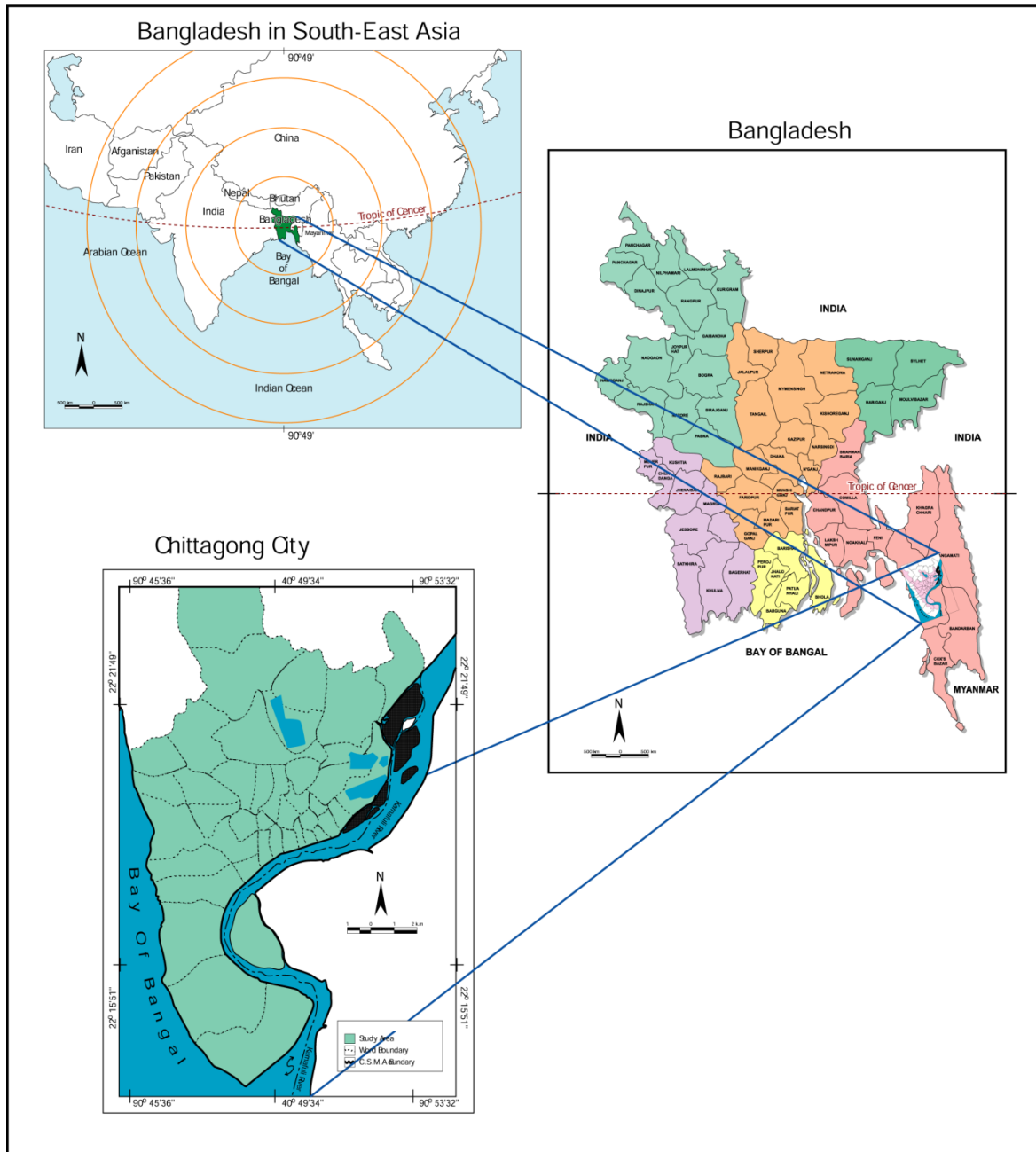
Geo-strategy is a vital direction of a country for its safety, security, and existence which deals with the foreign policy and national security through geographical factors. It also influences on political dimensions and military planning. Subsequently, it concerns with the geographical resources such as setting local, regional location, and global sphere (Wikipedia, 2012). According to American Heritage Dictionary of English Language, geo-strategy is a branch of geopolitics that deals with strategy of security concern and foreign policy. Therefore, the geopolitical factors and geostrategic phenomenon of a certain geographical area shapes on the governmental strategy. The Marriam -Webster defines the geo-strategy as a branch of geopolitics which deals with strategy. As a result of above discussion, Bangladesh bears a huge geostrategic significance to deal with its big neighbor, India with nuclear power, near to future superpower, China, and location between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries with *Emerging Economic Tigers* — Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. In respect of geo-strategic features, this land is bridging between western countries of Asia (SAARC) to eastern countries of South East Asia (ASEAN). Moreover, this riverine potential land is considered the gateway of Indian sub-continent at the estuary of the Meghna river. In addition, it offers an easy communication route with all geopolitical signified places of the south and south-east Asia.

6.2: Geo-Strategic Setting of Bangladesh

Geostrategic experts develop ideas, concepts, and its field of applications that discusses below for better understating its implication in Bangladesh, a land of resources and opportunities. According to James Rogers and Luis Simon (2000), geo-strategy is the exercise of power on a particular geographical area of earth which reveals skills on political presence over the international system. Moreover, it enhances security and prosperity in the external dealing with other neighbor countries and international affairs. For example, geo-strategy suggests security accesses to certain trade routes, strategic bottlenecks, rivers, islands, and seas where it requires extensive military presence, opening overseas military stations, and building of warships capable of deep oceanic power. Zbigniew Brzezinski (1883) emphasizes on the origin of geo-strategy where as *geopolitics*

reflects the combination of geographic and political factors determining the condition of a state or region, and it is emphasizing the impact of geography on politics whereas strategic refers to the comprehensive and planned application of measures to achieve a central goal or to vital assets of military significance. Thus, geostrategic merges strategic consideration with geopolitical idea. Jakub J. Grygiel (2006) discusses the geo-strategy as a geographic policy which states a direction of a state's foreign policy. It also describes where a state concentrates its efforts thorough projecting military power and directing diplomatic activity. Nayef Al-Rodhan (2012) considered that geo-strategists focus on the significance of certain geographic areas. For instance, Mackinder mentioned geopolitical importance of the Eurasian heartland which would have led geo-strategists to conclude, and it can control the northern and interior parts of Eurasia. According to Hugh White (2009), geostrategic calculations depend on military than on economic factors which revives the centrality of economic power as the key driver of geostrategic relationships. Subsequently, Mackinder describes the Russia and Iran regions of the world as 'the Heartland' in a 1904 speech in the Geographical Pivot of History to the Royal British Geographical Society which become the foundation of his contribution to geo-strategy, and geographically, the Pivot encompasses all of Central Asia, with the addition of large parts of Iran, and Russia as well.

In response to 'India Doctrine', it predominately controls its neighbours e.g. Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Indonesia in terms of economy, and culture thorough satellite TV, magazines, news papers, and internet that is a new colonial domination the less developing countries. According to Khan (2012), India has its own long-term agenda to pursue and its own doctrine of 'ferocious' image-building for psychological dominance over its neighbourhood. India doctrine is thus turning out to be patently detrimental to consolidation of Indian influence in the region commensurate with its real military and economic power. In July, 2011, Hillary Clinton came to Chennai, India, and has visited NGOs and schools. Geo-strategically, her visit bears a significance rule to stretch of sea from the Indian Ocean through to the Pacific contains the world's most vibrant trade and energy roots linking economies and driving growth. Therefore, she mentioned that Kolkata is becoming an important hub on the new Silk Route connecting the economies of East, Central and South Asia. Khan (2012) highlighted a note 'What happens to Chittagong as the 'hub'? Yunus eats your heart out! Your friend Hilary is now double-talking' (Khan, 2012).

Figure-6.1: Location of Chittagong Seoport in South Asia

Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

The Bay of Bengal shares coastline with India and Myanmar, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the most significant and strategic Indian marine outposts, an important military base which is only about 300 miles south of Bangladesh's prime seaport of Chittagong and Chalna. On the other hand, Bangladesh is separated from the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal and Bhutan next to a strip of Indian Territory. Moreover, Shiliguri corridor is only about 12 miles at its narrowest point. Hence, Bangladesh's bears an importance in regional geo-strategy very concern in the national security of both India and

Bangladesh. The Shiliguri corridor is regarded as a very sensitive strategic land for New Delhi, and it being the only land connection with the insurgent-infested north-eastern states of India—the seven sisters states. The importance of an alternative route first dawned on Indian strategists during the 1962 Sino-Indian war. China threatened to cut off India's communication link with seven sisters' states, particularly in NEFA (Arunachal Pradesh). Thus, Indian strategists are well aware of the fact that China is capable of cutting off the vital communication line between the North-eastern seven sisters' states from the rest of the Indian union (Rob, 1999, 2006, and Hussein, 2006). *Hence*, India, Bangladesh needs to reassess its own geo-strategic dynamics, with the focus on its opportunities and challenges. Most of all, Bangladesh needs to bear in mind its geographic location, vital for Indian integration and expansion of strategic frontier, and its non-renewable cheap energy (Hussein, 2006).

6.2.1: Location Significance of Bangladesh

Since, Sino-Indian war in 1962 and emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, India became more powerful state in the south Asia. Moreover, it became a dominant power in the region with the nuclear explosion in 1974. Furthermore, with the changed of south Asian's geo-strategic scenario, Bangladesh's geopolitical importance increased because of at least to three factors. First, Bangladesh began to be referred to as the fourth largest Muslim country in the world and as the second in the region. The second factor is Bangladesh's location within the 'geo-strategic frontier' of India, South Asian most powerful country, and third, Bangladesh is located in close proximity with China, Asia's largest rising power which considered a strategic rival of both the US and India. Thus, the prevailing geo-strategic environment poses challenge to Bangladesh's national security aspects, particularly economic development, energy security and military growth (Rob, 1999, 2006, and Hussein, 2006).

Consequently, Bangladesh has certain geographical advantage that makes it more important among regional powers which can draw this land into a complex strategic scenario creating as a result of challenges between big powers. Hence, Bangladesh can play a key player in strategic game plans of India, Pakistan, the USA, and China in the south Asian power politics for following reasons:

First, the unique geographic location of Bangladesh cuts off the distressed the north east regions from mainland of India. It also deals with a significant security weak point for India with sharing border with China where various rebellious groups actively struggles

against the Indian government for self independence. In light of the Indo-China war in 1962, the Indian defense planners consider the strategic 'chicken neck' (Shiliguri) to be inadequate for military defense whereas Bangladesh is more secure, and lesser route to transport military logistics to the north east regions, seven sister states. In case of a possible military emergency, and conflict between India and China, India must have the strategic corridor through Bangladesh as conducting a sustainable military campaign against the insurgent groups in the north east India.

Second, the corridor through Bangladesh has a vast economic significance for its cost effective route to connect north east states with the rest of India for transshipments of industrial goods to and from the north eastern states which plays a vital geostrategic rule to improve the economic condition of this land locked regions.

Third, Bangladesh is likely to be a bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN which also has an enormous geographic advantages for its proximity to Myanmar, and other South East Asian nations to promote interregional economic, political and security cooperation. Subsequently, Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway will connect the South and South East Asian nations, and Bangladesh will be a main transit point to increase economic interactions among themselves. Thus, Bangladesh with appropriate policies and infrastructures will be playing a pivotal role in defining the direction of economic relations between the two emerging regional groups.

Fourth, Bangladesh is considered the gateway to Bay of Bengal with its 45000 sq miles of sea territory which includes valuable marine resources such as hydrocarbon, fisheries, and natural gas. Moreover, it has a well developed sea port for both economic and military opportunities, and India can use the port facilities to increase trade with its land locked, the north east regions while other the south and the south-east Asian countries. China can also use the same facilities to increase interregional economic interactions. Hence, with the ambition to protect the oil transshipment and trade routes in the Indian Ocean, Chinese navy can also make a rapid progress in developing relations with the coastal nations such as Myanmar and Bangladesh to gain access to the port facilities. In the recent Indo-USA strategic agreement, the USA also seeks similar facilities from Bangladesh as a response to Chinese's naval presence in the Bay of Bengal.

Fifth, Because of the rapidly increasing population, high economic growth, and rapid industrialization, India has become the sixth largest energy consumer in the world but it has to import oil to meet 70% of the domestic demands which cost 40% of the total export earnings. India has to diversify import sources for uninterrupted supply of energy but due to international politics to import hydrocarbon from Iran and Venezuela, Bangladesh and Myanmar may have a cheap and secure sources of energy supply for India. Bangladesh has a tentative gas reserve of 33 TCF, and its proven reserve is only 12 -15 TCF which is inadequate to meet its own domestic demand; therefore, the government has already decided against exporting gas to other countries unless new reserves are found. Even though, Bangladesh has expressed the inability to export gas at the moment, India considers Bangladesh a major source of energy in the long run for its potentials to discover huge hydrocarbon reserves in the Bay of Bengal. In addition, Bangladesh is the most cost effective route for India to import gas from Myanmar. Thus, Bangladesh becomes emerge as a significant player in regional strategic energy game.

Sixth, Bangladesh is significant for the complex and strategic scenario that has emerged thorough India's strategic alliance with the USA to control China and its rivalry with Pakistan for regional supremacy. India has to take in consideration of the fact that Bangladesh has established an integrated military relation with China and repaired the relations with Pakistan to solve the problem in balance of power in the relation with India. So, the possible military role of Bangladesh in case of a war either between India and China or between India and Pakistan could be a strategic concern for India.

Seventh, in light of Bangladesh's endeavour to take control of the own affairs and the attempt to seek greater independence in foreign policy matters, India formulated a set of strategies to isolate, threaten, and force Bangladesh to submit to Indian domination to reap the strategic benefits of breaking up of Pakistan. The following strategies have been put into action by Indian foreign and defense services to create pressure on Bangladesh:

6.3: Geo-Strategy with India

6.3.1: The Indian Ocean and Superpowers' Perceptions

The Indian Ocean plays an important role in trade and commerce of maritime routes. But in the context of ideological conflict between the two superpowers, the Indian Ocean has acquired political significance. The United States sees the Indian Ocean as a factor in the strategy to maintain friendly influence with the newly independent nations in the region.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union finds in this strategy of the USA, a direct threat not only to the security and independence of littoral countries, but to the own security interests as well. In addition, the Indo-Pak War in 1971, the Soviet Union and India combined support to Bangladesh as Pakistan was being supported by the US and China. As a reaction to the American naval task force centered on the aircraft carrier "Enterprise" in the Bay of Bengal, the Soviet Union reinforced its Indian Ocean fleet, thereby at least symbolically demonstrating its support for India. Indo-Soviet cooperation also proved itself in the United Nations when China, represented in that organization for the first time, adopted a position in line with that of the United States in the Security Council and yet was unable to avert an Indian victory over its ally Pakistan (Sawhney, and William L. Dowdy, 1990).

6.3.2: The Indian Ocean as a "Zone of Peace"

India in its own right is emerging as a regional power, and this is often mentioned as matter of growing concern to neighboring states. This has often been done by interested powers to create fear so as to make these states dependent. If a power vacuum is the rationale for the superpowers to rush in, it should legitimately be India that fills up that vacuum as the British controlled the region from India. India's growing power has resulted from following a political system and increasing its industrial strength through technological development. Its need to become militarily strong results from the threat India has faced from a big and nuclear power, China. India has no hegemonic designs. All conflicts with Pakistan were Pakistan's adventures, largely the creation of its military regimes. History stands as evidence that 26 no undue harm has been brought upon a smaller neighbor by India. In fact, India sacrificed a great deal in helping its neighbors such as aiding the liberation of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's emergence on the US strategic radar reflects the US is coming to grips with the changed geostrategic and geopolitical realities in the south Asia. To some measure it also reflects the US strategic pivot to Asia Pacific in quest for new strategic partners in the region. Bangladesh's current strategic reliance on China (including a Bangladesh – China Defence Agreement) and its strategic convergence with Pakistan in relation to India; therefore, it makes strange reading today. Pakistan and China as enemies which opposed Bangladesh's war of liberation have become strategic partners and India as a strategic partner of Bangladesh's liberation has been turned into a perceived foe by Bangladesh's

policy establishment till lately. India's policy establishment and its diplomats can be said to have failed in not being to effectively and firmly manage Bangladesh strategically to ensure that Pakistan and China did not exploit Bangladesh's insecurities at India's expense. More than Bangladesh, it is India's strategic imperatives that now should impel India's policy establishment to work towards forging a Bangladesh-India Strategic Partnership. India should forget the past mutual animosities and irritants that Pakistan and China fostered and look towards the future positively. Stacked against Pakistan and China's game plans in Bangladesh are new strategic realities and which now operate in India's favour in forging a substantive relationship with Bangladesh (Kapila, 2008).

6.3.3: Bangladesh in Indian's Strategic Dynamic

Bangladesh plays in India's strategic dynamics, strategic location between mainland India and the north-eastern seven states of the Indian union. Each of these states is land-locked which has a possible shorter route to the sea through Bangladesh. As a result, the navigable rivers in India's north-east areas could be connected with West Bengal and Orissa ports pass through Bangladesh. The only entry to and exit from the North-eastern region of India is through the Shiliguri corridor that is close to the Chinese border and within striking distance of Bangladesh, and it became the most sensitive 'choke point' for the Indian union. Therefore, Bangladesh provides easy land access to the south-east Asian countries that are important for India's 'Look East Policy' (Rob, 2000, and Hussein, 2006). In Sino - Bangla relations in the south Asia's changing strategic dynamics, China has been a constantly important factor in Bangladesh's foreign policy since the establishment of diplomatic, military and economic ties in 1976. Since then the Governments of Bangladesh of all political complexions have pursued similar China policy. In this context, the growing linkage, connectivity and possible land connection enhances Bangladesh's regional geo-strategic status particularly for the following reasons: China enjoys access to the Bay of Bengal through Myanmar. Dhaka's proposal to connect Kunming with Bangladesh by road through Myanmar could be an alternative route for China which has known to have shown interest in Bangladesh's energy sector. This assumes significance in the context when both India and China are competitors in energy sector in terms of consumption and international investment. Apparently, India is sceptical about Sino-Bangla understanding and possible cooperation in nuclear energy sector and. The enhanced importance of the Bay of Bengal and the perceived triangular contest there is involving India, China and the USA. The facts that Bangladesh is the fourth largest

Muslim country and one of the four Muslim democracies are strategically important (Hussein, 2006). In addition, Bangladesh's growing contributions on the regional and global stage is recognised. World renowned experts on cholera travelled to Haiti, Somalia, and other places to the UN peace Keeping Missions, (Islam, 2012).

6.3.4: Nehru's India Doctrine

India will inevitably exercise an important influence. India will also develop as the centre of economic and political activity in the Indian Ocean area. The small national state is doomed. It may survive as a culturally autonomous area but not as an independent political unit." Now it makes sense of why and how Hyderabad, Kashmir, Goa, and Sikkim were made part of India. It is clear that "some of the objectives in this whole exercise are the occupations of the gas fields, coal fields, control of offshore gas exploration, constructing three-country gas pipe line, obtaining transit, road-rail-river multiple connectivity, Chittagong port facility, construction of deep sea port at Chattagong area (for North East India, with WB loan, so that while we would do the loan servicing, India would get the port facility and transit). India also wants to control our economy, army, administration, government, as well as the territory. Then they want to reduce it to a vassal state before annexing it as a subordinate state," the Nehru Doctrine in practice.

Through sustained propaganda over many years, the axis of evil has internationally depicted Bangladesh as a hub of Islamic terrorism, so that they can militarily intervene through multi-national force as in Afghanistan. In the mean time, the US marines have been studying the terrain, road communications etc. of Bangladesh for the last six months in the pretext of disaster prevention, as has been reported in the press. The quiet storm that raged on the transit issue, people even threatened armed struggle if transit" given shows that there are still independent-minded Bangladeshis who will stand up to fight any further development of Nehru's Indian Doctrine in Bangladesh.

In India's growing power in the region, Bangladeshis firm determination to fight against the external enemies doesn't seem to be enough to deal with India. In this clash between Bangladesh Doctrine of peaceful-living with Nehru's Indian Doctrine of aggression, Bangladesh to survive as a nation, in every Bangladesh University it must have to have South Asian Research Institute where compulsory studies on Indian culture, religion and politics be taught. Bangladeshi spy agency has to be upgraded and remain on guard to find

RAW members working in Bangladesh. Once found out should be made public. In order to hide its bloody hands, RAW plays with that Bangladeshis people as being the Bengalis and to divide the nation, it promotes the so-called progressive politics through the Indian Bengali elements and the Bangladeshi political parties the theme of the 1971 war.

Bangladeshis should clearly articulate who they are, Bengali or Bangladeshi. Quite surely, India made it clear when it put a Berlin wall dividing Bengal and there was no complain from the Indian Bengalis. Bangladeshis are only lately finding out that now they are on their own as the Bangladeshis. In this situation of isolation, in order to be able to deal with India effectively there should be organizations of smaller countries perhaps an eventual deep cooperation among themselves to fight against Nehru's evil Indian Doctrine. It is also necessary to have the direct involvement of China. Perhaps China should be given lease of a small island in the Bay of Bengal.

That is the self-fulfilling Prophecy of the Indian Doctrine. For Bangladesh however, it is better late to take serious measures than never. Measures should be taken from the understanding of Nehru doctrine of the Brahmo Raj and how to neutralize the impact of it that in future from anarchy could stop to take the lives of many Bangladeshis similar to the Iraqis; the latter didn't know the storm in their sky that would struck everybody on the ground. There must be a way to deal with the evil forces hanging in the sky of Bangladesh and it must be averted and it got to be done through research because we know that knowledge is power.

6.4: The China Factor in South Asia's Geo-Strategy

China becomes visible as large power over South Asian geo-strategic scenario. China, over the decades, has developed closer links with all South Asian countries, especially strategic relations with Bangladesh and Pakistan. This strategic relationship is factored in India's geo-strategic appreciation. Indeed, the growth of strategic relationship between Bangladesh and China has not escaped the Indian strategic analysts, particularly the last year's visit of Bangladeshi Prime Minister to China and Beijing's agreement on providing assistance to Bangladesh in nuclear power sector, apart from military cooperation. According to Anand Kumar, just before Khaleda Zia's visit, an official of the State Power Development Board (SPDB) stated that Bangladesh needed a 1,000 megawatt nuclear power plant to meet the growing power demand. China reportedly agreed to give

assistance to Bangladesh for peaceful use of nuclear energy for medicine and electricity generation. It will provide assistance for at Rooppur Nuclear Plant. He quoted that China does not want to lose its influence in Bangladesh. It has attracted the country by offering cooperation in the area of nuclear energy which may be a dangerous development in the south Asia. This kind of Chinese cooperation with Pakistan had earlier resulted in proliferation of nuclear technologies. Therefore, relationship with China enhances Bangladesh's strategic status and relationship with Myanmar is seen as an important key player in the 'new emerging strategic equation in north Bay of Bengal, strongly contested by China and India' (Hussein, 2006).

Bangladesh lies adjacent to India's sensitive northeast, which has been the focus of control through anti-Indian rebellions by China, Pakistan and now Bangladesh, individually and jointly with Pakistan. In addition, India's national security interests dictate that Bangladesh is not allowed to operate as a facilitator for anti-Indian activities in any form or variety. Subsequently, India's national security interests dictate that Bangladesh is not permitted to be *Talibanised* which is not only a security threat to India but also to the south east Asia and the US global security interests.

Delhi has been accusing Bangladesh of connivance with religious extremists for expanding towards the north east India's Muslim majority districts of Assam. India's increasing demand on Bangladesh for strategic concessions needs to be viewed in the context that most Indian strategists agree that Bangladesh is a crucially important country for India to secure its strategic frontier which goes beyond India's geographical boundary. The India's strategic decision makers view that Bangladesh is well organized within its internal security parameter which perception makes India more trembling while dealing with Bangladesh. Since the British announcement in 1968 of its withdrawal from the Indian Ocean region by 1971, the two superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union were drawn in a big way. Therefore, this evolution makes an attempt to see the future having an impact on superpower relations and the global geopolitical landscape. The current state of flux makes assumption extremely challenging (Sawhney, and William L. Dowdy, 1990)

6.5: Bridging Between SAARC and ASEAN

BIMSTEC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation) an strategic extension of India establishing the 'Look East' policy which consists of five countries of South Asia and South East Asia at the edge of Bay of Bengal. It is an attempt

to a predominance of land and maritime geo-strategic points of another geo-economic setting. Though, these countries cooperate in sectors like trade and investment, transport and communication, energy, technology, poverty alleviation, counter terrorism, SMEs, and rural area development. For India, membership of BIMSTEC implies closer ties with its eastern neighbours, offsetting the influence of China in the region, sidelining Pakistan, access to ASEAN, security, economic prosperity due to FTA and clout in regional and international affairs. This grouping consisting of 1.3 billion people can eventually pave the way for a larger Asian community and make the 21 century, the century of Asia (Smita, 2005).

There is a need for widening and deepening economic cooperation between ASEAN and South Asian states like Bangladesh based on mutual advantage that might, in turn, lead to a greater share of global trade. In addition, there exists a commonality of economic and security interests between Bangladesh and ASEAN countries, including the expansion of trade and investment, agriculture, tourism, communications and the transfer of technology. Furthermore, Bangladesh cannot remain outside the penetrating influence of globalization. In an age of economic striving and cooperative security, sustained growth may be its most important goal. These factors indicate that both Bangladesh and ASEAN have the geo-economic potential to extract advantage from the increased trade and cooperation in the era of globalization that involves the economic powerhouses of the ASEAN process.

Bangladesh's moderate economic growth intertwined with economic liberalization and trade linkages with ASEAN countries are expected to strengthen the ASEAN-Bangladesh Relations. Dynamic shift of ASEAN in its structure and relations enables neighboring countries like Bangladesh to seek institutionalization of linkages with ASEAN. Institutionalization of this relationship between ASEAN and Bangladesh fosters investment and trade flows, social and cultural exchanges as well as technical cooperation to cope with the challenges of present era stemming from global economic recession and other transnational forces worldwide. This paper explores the recent trends and future prospect of ASEAN-Bangladesh relations taking into consideration the policy options within a trans-regional context evolving under the framework of economic realism.

ASEAN, as a comprehensive regional organization, provides a venue for the exchange of views and a tentative understanding with the member countries of Southeast Asia. The expansion of ASEAN to a grouping of 10, the inclusion of Myanmar and the emergence of the ASEAN's regional process including Japan, China, South Korea, Australia and New

Zealand, means that Bangladesh now stands directly at ASEAN's western door and is being drawn still closer to China's strategic periphery. It is therefore the gateway between ASEAN and South Asian states.

The strengthening of ASEAN-Bangladesh relations seems to be a natural development as these two are part of the global economies that are becoming rapidly interlinked through more open trade regimes in the era of globalization. Regionalization is often driven by economic motivation (Christopher, Hughes and Philippe, 2008). Bangladesh, the development dynamism has driven ASEAN to seek external relations with many countries, both developed and developing ones was added to ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as the 26th member, starting from July 28 2006 (Hindustan Times, 2006). ASEAN regularly conducts dialogue meetings with other countries and an organization, collectively known as the ASEAN dialogue partners during the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The ASEAN Regional Forum is an informal multilateral dialogue of 25 members that seeks to address security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Table-6.1: Arms Expenditure, Arms Forces, Defenceless and Arms Business of Developed ASEAN and SAARC Blocks

Countries	Arms Expenditure US\$	Arms Forces '000	Refugees	Arms Business Exports USD	Import USD
China	12025	293	12500	3100	270
SAARC					
India	8000	1145	378000	-	3200
Afghanistan	245	45	52000	-	-
Bangladesh	481	115	245300		80
Bhutan	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	36	35	89400		
Pakistan	3100	587	1577000	10	340
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	640	125	2540		20
Total	12, 502	2,052	2,344,240		
ASEAN					
Brunei	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	85	88	10000	-	240
Laos	105	37	12000	-	150
Malaysia	2400	114	16700	-	30
Myanmar	135	286	11500	-	30
The Philippines	1000	106	5600	-	60
Singapore	3900	53	100	10	310
Thailand	4040	259	255500	-	525
Indonesia	2700	274	15600	-	130
Vietnam					
Total	14,365	1,219	737,000		

Source: World Almanac, 2012.

6.6: Look East Policy of India

India's Look East policy represents its efforts to cultivate extensive economic and strategic relations with the nations of Southeast Asia in order to bolster its standing as a regional power and a counterweight to the strategic influence of the People's Republic of China. Although it had traditionally supported Burma's pro-democracy movement for many years, India's policy changed in 1993, making friendly overtures to the military junta. India signed trade agreements and increased its investments in Burma; although private sector activity remains low, India's state corporations have landed lucrative contracts for industrial projects and the construction of major roads and highways, pipelines and upgrading of ports. India has also increased its competition with China over the harnessing of Burma's significant oil and natural gas reserves, seeking to establish a major and stable source of energy for its growing domestic needs, countering Chinese monopoly over Burmese resources and reducing dependence on oil-rich Middle Eastern nations. Although China remains Burma's largest military supplier, India has offered to train Burma's military personnel and has sought their cooperation in curbing separatist militants and the heavy drug trafficking affecting much of Northeast India. China's winning of contracts harnessing more than 2.88–3.56 trillion cubits of natural gas in the A-1 Shwe field in the Rakhine State and development of naval and surveillance installations along Burma's coast and the Coco Islands has provoked great concern and anxiety in India, which has stepped up its investment in port development, energy, transport and military sectors.

India has also established strong commercial, cultural and military ties with the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia. India signed free trade agreements with Sri Lanka and Thailand and stepped up its military cooperation with them as well. It has numerous free trade agreements with East Asian economies, including a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore and an Early Harvest Scheme with Thailand, while it is negotiating agreements with Japan, South Korea, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states. Ties have been strengthened with Taiwan, Japan and South Korea over common emphasis on democracy, human rights and strategic interests. South Korea and Japan remain amongst the major sources of foreign investment in India.

While India has remained a staunch supporter of the "One China" policy and recognized the People's Republic of China on the mainland over the Republic of China authorities on

Taiwan, it has, nevertheless, pursued a policy of increasing engagement with the island. India has stepped up engagement with East Asia fueled by its need for cooperation on counter-terrorism, humanitarian relief, anti-piracy, maritime and energy security, confidence-building and balancing the influence of other powers, notably China. Driven by the fact that more than 50% of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait, the Indian navy has established a Far Eastern Naval Command off Port Blair on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India has also been conducting joint naval exercises with Singapore (SIMBEX) since 1993, with Vietnam in 2000 and has engaged in joint patrols with Indonesia in the Andaman Sea since 2002. Japan and India were also members of the tsunami relief regional core group in the Indian Ocean in 2004 along with Australia and the United States.

India has developed multilateral organizations such as the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and BIMSTEC, forging extensive cooperation on environmental, economic development, security and strategic affairs, permitting the growth of influence beyond South Asia and without the tense and obstructive presence of Pakistan and China that has stalled its efforts in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. India became a sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN in 1992, in 1995 was given an advisory status, a member of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum in 1996, and a summit level partner (on par with China, Japan and Korea) in 2002. The first India-ASEAN Business Summit was held in New Delhi in 2002. India also acceded to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in 2003.

In many cases, India's membership to these forums has been a result of attempts by the region to balance China's growing influence in the area. Notably, Japan brought India into ASEAN+6 to dilute the ASEAN+3 process, where China is dominant, while Singapore and Indonesia played a significant role in bringing India into the East Asia Summit. The United States and Japan have also lobbied for India's membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. Numerous infrastructure projects also serve to tie India closer to East Asia. India is participating in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Pacific initiatives for an Asian Highway Network and the Trans-Asian Railway network. Discussions are also proceeding on reopening the World War II-era Stilwell Road linking India's Assam state with China's Yunnan province through Myanmar.

6.7: Geo-strategy with the SAARC

Bangladesh-India Strategic Partnership is an idea and a strategic imperative whose time has come to implement by both countries. Moreover, In South Asia, in terms of relative stability Bangladesh offers more promise than Pakistan. Bangladesh therefore deserves a higher priority attention than Pakistan in terms of strategic and political effort by India's policy establishment, diplomats and the strategic community. Furthermore, India's efforts and initiatives to work towards a Bangladesh-India Strategic Partnership should not be allowed to be misread in Bangladesh as an Indian effort to convert Bangladesh into an Indian satellite State. Subsequently, India's political history of the last 60 years does not provide any indicators to such Indian inclinations anywhere in South Asia, least of all Bangladesh, where its war of liberation itself was a strategic partnership between Bangladesh liberation stalwarts and the Indian nation state (Kapila, 2008).

In addition, Bangladesh's location within the 'geo-strategic frontier' of India, which is South Asia's most powerful country, Bangladesh being in close proximity with China, which is Asia's largest power, and also considered a strategic rival of both the US and India. Bangladesh is bounded with India almost entirely on three sides except for a small but significant border in the southeast with Myanmar. Border with Myanmar makes importance of Bangladesh's location. More important thing about importance of Bangladesh geo-strategic location is that it is very important for two strategic rivals China and India, because in the north Bangladesh is separated from the Himalayan kingdom's of Nepal and Bhutan by a strip of India's territory, which is known as Shiliguri Corridor; the Shiliguri Corridor is regarded as a very sensitive strategic land for India, it being the only land connection with the uprising rebellion overrun the north-eastern states of India, the seven sisters states, if this land connection will block in future by any internal or external elements, India would find itself cut off from its strategic part seven sisters states, so in that situation only alternative way for India to reach its important part of land is strategic corridor through Bangladesh. The importance of such an alternative route thorough Bangladesh first realized during the 1962 Sino-Indian war, when China threatened to cut off India's line of communication in the seven sisters states, particularly in NEFA (North East Frontier Agency) in Arunachal Pradesh.

India has threat and also well aware of this fact that China is capable of cutting off the vital communication line between the north-eastern seven sisters states with the rest of the

Indian union, so India admits the strategic importance of Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh is strategically very important for India because of this alternative route. Seven sister states is land-locked and has shorter route to the sea through Bangladesh. Bangladesh geo-strategic location is also important for China, because China enjoys access to the Bay of Bengal through Myanmar. Bangladesh's proposal to connect Kunming with Bangladesh by road through Myanmar could be an alternative route for China. Therefore, India is unconvinced about Sino-Bangla understanding and possible cooperation in nuclear energy sector. Bangladesh is with in close proximity with Arunachal Pradesh which is still disputed land between China and India, that's why Bangladesh strategic location is important for both China and India (Niazi, 2010).

The Partition has a mesmerising quality that blinds the mind, a kind of notional heft that far outweighs its real significance to modern South Asian politics. The concerns of the state of Pakistan, the anxieties of its society, and the analytic frames of its intellectual and media elites have as their primary reference not 1947 but the hurtful enemies of the country in 1971. Indians have naturally focused on its own enemies, but for Pakistan, is having focused on the wrong date. According to Macdonald (2009), Indians tend not to remember 1971 as a Pakistani civil war, but rather as India's 'good' war. It is remembered as an intervention by India to prevent the genocide of Bengalis by Pakistanis. The fact that the Bengalis themselves were also Pakistanis has been wiped out from the collective memory of Indian elites. This makes 1971 merely another Kargil, or Kashmir, Afghanistan or Mumbai—an instance of Pakistan meddling in other people's affairs, and of the Pakistani military's adventurism in the region.

6.8: Foreign Policy of Bangladesh

After a long term political conflict and a bloody nine month existing war Bangladesh got independence on December 16, 1971. India also accepted Bangladesh on December 6, 1971. Moreover, Bangladesh got membership in the United Nations in 1974, and it is playing very important role in the UN, OIC, D-8, Commonwealth, and the SAARC. The foreign policy of Bangladesh is moderate which has strong geostrategic and geopolitical base. Thus, Bangladesh is surrounded by India (3750 km boundary) and Myanmar (280 km). India is the regional super power both economically and defensively. India interferes almost in every affair of Bangladesh directly and sometimes indirectly. Some important aspects of foreign policy are as follows:

After the independence in 1971, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited different neighbouring countries, and European countries to improve relation with Europe and neighbours. In 1972, the world knew Bangladesh as a secular and autocrat ruled country which was full of corruption and anarchy. Hence, without any particular policy Bangladesh was going on as a rudderless ship in a deep sea. In 1975, the President of Bangladesh introduced a 'Multi Party Democracy', and it was appreciated by the rest of the world. Thus, it made a friendly relation with Europe and Middle-East. During the period 1975-1980, the economy of Bangladesh changed, and many workers were sent to the middle-east. Moreover, border security, smuggling, and push-in are main problems in boundary areas. Furthermore, India and Myanmar claimed their priority in the sea border of Bangladesh, and it attempts to deal with the maritime boundary demarcation by discussion, and UNCLOS III.

Almost all rivers are flowing from outside (India, China and Nepal) of the country. Thus, it has to depend protecting natural calamities related to rivers e.g. floods and draughts, for getting sufficient sharing of water in dry seasons (March-June). Consequently, there are 111 (17000 acre) enclaves of India are in Bangladesh and 51 (7000 acre) enclaves are in India which belongs to Bangladesh. People of those areas are suffering a non-citizenship problem the result of which is beggar description (The Bangladesh Observer, 22.11.2004).

Tribal-Aboriginal conflict in the CHTs is another problem related to foreign affairs. It is clear that this problem is backed by neighbouring countries, India. Many groups of tribal people claim the independence in the CHTs. Often this revolt people are tortured and kidnapped the other peace loving tribal groups, Bengal people, and even the tourists. Therefore, recently, the government intended to declare these rebellion tribal people as aboriginals who have already been refused by mass people.

6.9: Rohingya Refugee Issue

The Rohingya refugees, a group (Bengali Speaking Muslim) fled to Bangladesh after being displaced by the then military government of Myanmar. As a country of first asylum Bangladesh is to ensure the protection of the Rohingya but, given the strain created by its own large population, and it became a potential threat to Bangladesh's internal stability and a source of interstate tension between Myanmar and Bangladesh. In the late 1970, Naga-Min Operation led about 2.5 Million Rohingya to flee Myanmar and enter

Bangladesh (Banglapedia, 2006). About 2 Million – 4 Million Rohingyas are still awaiting repatriation (Moni, 2009). Refugee camps can easily become a thriving breeding ground for terrorism and bring trouble for Bangladesh and the region.

CHAPTER SEVEN: SECURITY CONCERN OF BANGLADESH IN RELATION TO THE ASEAN AND SAARC COUNTRIES

7.1: Introduction

Security is a prime concern of nation states which becomes a complicated task to maintain in view of rapid changes in political, economic, and strategic fields of national, regional and global levels. Even states with high national capabilities, well- conceived, and well-formulated security doctrine can identify threats and enemies to respond a new change in a consistent manner. It is more complicated for states which have less national capabilities, no security doctrine-conceived or formulated, no identified threats and enemies, or have the misidentified sources of threats. Hence, the states must have their own defensive back up policies against threats of internal and external enemies. Hence, Bangladesh represents a typical example which deals with various sources of internal extremists, its big neighbours with nuclear power, and regional and world super power countries.

7.2: Tradition Security Concern

7.2.1: Bangladesh: National Security

The military approach of national security is based on the assumption that the principal threat for security comes from other nations. Walter Lippmann is who first defined national security in explicit terms as a nation is secure to the extent to which it is not in danger or having to sacrifice core values. According to Amold Wolfers, Lippmann's definition that empties which security rises and falls with the ability of a nation to deter an attack or to defeat it, and it is after all nothing but the absence of the evil o insecurity, a negative value. According to Frank N. Trigger and Frank L. Simonies, it is that part of government policy having as its objective the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the protection or extension of vital national values against existing and potential adversaries. Maniruzzaman defines security as the protection and preservation of the minimum core values of any nation: political independence and territorial integrity.

7.2.2: Territorial Boundary Security

Indo-Bangladesh enclave issues are still remains controversial which make frequent conflicts at the international boundary between India and Bangladesh. In 1974, the LBA has formed which specify land marks to exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh. Conversely, the clauses under the 1974 agreement are yet to be implemented by means of India, despite the fact that Bangladesh has taken some steps unilaterally. There are 111 Indian enclaves in the territory of Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in the Indian Territory. The inhabitants in these enclaves lead inhuman lives, and the sufferings are immeasurable as people hardly have any access to medical facilities, education, sanitation, safe water, legal services, even relief facilities. Thus, the issue has turned into a humanitarian one, and it needs to be resolved immediately because it is one of the prime responsibilities of the state to provide security to its citizens. If it cannot do it, it fails to meet basic rights of the citizens.

On this critical issue, Bangladesh and India need increased bilateral and regional cooperation to effectively manage a counter terrorism regime. Boundaries are long and porous, and mutual political antagonism has led the agencies in each country to blame the other for assisting rebels. At this point, transnational links between religious extremists moving between the two countries are further complicating bilateral relations. These problems cannot be resolved without inter-state cooperation. It is in India's interest to cooperate with Bangladesh to prevent the access of militants of Indian Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), infiltrating and operating in Bangladesh. Some cooperation has begun; Bangladesh, for example, has handed over wanted Indian insurgents and their leaders to Delhi, but this cannot be a one-sided process and must be seen to be mutually beneficial to have long-term effect. (BIPSS, 2012)

7.2.3: Political Threats

Since, the sovereignty of Bangladesh in 1971, political parties have apparently failed to bring political stability in the independent motherland. Moreover, the country has been rocked by political violence's of server form including a series of coups and counter coups. Within a short time-span of only four years the country's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated. The military strongman and later president, Ziaur Rahman lost his life in the same way in early 1981. Thereafter, the country fell into the iron fist of another military dictator, H.M. Ershad, drove out through

people's rise on December 6, 1990. Second, the undeveloped state of political institutions can be held equally responsible for chronic political instabilities in Bangladesh. After independence in 1971 Bangladesh has been unable to develop well-organized, strictly disciplined political parties having contacts at the grassroots levels.

7.2.4: External Threats Front

A state's external threats generally originate from its immediate geographic neighbourhood. In case of Bangladesh it obviously refers to India that encircles it from three sides –north, east, and west, Apart from geographic location, Bangladesh's perception of India has already involved the latter into a threat of serious issues. In 1947, there has been a persistent moralistic overture in India's foreign policy. These moralistic, principles, such as ant colonialism and neo-colonialism, the sovereign equality of all nation-states, peaceful coexistence rather than balance of power politics etc. are generally proclaimed as providing the basis for India's foreign policy.

7.2.5: Indo-Bangladesh Maritime Security

The issue of maritime dispute with India poses one of the most serious threats to Bangladesh's security. The Bangladesh-India maritime boundary remains unresolved since 1974. Keeping pace with the rapidly growing population of the country, the state needs to explore the vast marine resources which likely to be reserve of mineral resources in the Bay of Bengal. The maritime disputes with India over delimiting Bangladesh's territorial water and the EEZ are far behind with its national integrity. Therefore, Bangladesh cannot explore and exploit the potentials that lie in the sea without solving the dispute of maritime boundary between the countries.

7.2.6: Emergence of Pakistan-India

The concept of an autonomous Muslim state was publicly proposed during the Allahabad session of the Muslim League in 1930 by the leading Muslim poet-philosopher in South Asia, Mohammad Iqbal. During the next decade, this concept evolved into the demand for the partition of India into separate Muslim and Hindu nations, known as the Two Nations Theory. In 1940 Muslim League president Mohammed Ali Jinnah presided over the organization's annual session, held that year at Lahore, in which the League made its first official demand for the partition of India. The Lahore Resolution called for an independent, sovereign Muslim state.

During pre independence talks in 1946, the British government found that the stand of the Muslim League on separation and that of the Congress on the territorial unity of India were irreconcilable. Therefore, the British decided on partition and on August 14, 1947, granted independence to Pakistan. India gained its independence the next day. They both became independent dominions within the Commonwealth of Nations. Pakistan came into existence in two parts: West Pakistan, coextensive with the country's present boundaries and East Pakistan (Bangladesh). The two were separated by 1,600 km (1,000 miles) of Indian Territory.

7.2.7: Independence of Bangladesh

The division of India caused tremendous dislocation of populations. Some 3.5 million Hindus and Sikhs moved from Pakistan into India, and about 5 million Muslim refugees-Mohajirs, migrated from India to Pakistan. The demographic shift caused an initial bitterness between the two countries that was further intensified by each country's accession of a portion of the princely states in the region. Nearly all of these 562 widely scattered polities joined either India or Pakistan; however, the Muslim princes of Hyderabad and Junagadh and the Hindu ruler of Kashmīr chose not to join either country.

There were many casualties during ensuing military operations in East Pakistan, as the Pakistani army attacked the poorly armed population. India claimed that nearly 10 million Bengali refugees crossed its borders, and stories of West Pakistani atrocities abounded. The Awami League leaders took refuge in Calcutta (Kolkata) and established a government in exile. India finally intervened on December 3, 1971, and the Pakistani army surrendered 13 days later. East Pakistan declared its independence as Bangladesh.

In the context of contiguity of borders and evolving nature of threats from within and outside South Asia, the area of potential cooperation on security issues is much broader. Both countries share interests in effectively managing a security regime which is important not only for countering terrorism but also for maintaining and reinforcing a secure atmosphere in relations between the countries. Nonetheless, a security cooperation based on common security interest in which the concerns of both countries will be given proper attention is a pioneer to manage a fruitful security management. It is in Bangladesh's national interest not to harbour or provide shelter to any insurgents or militants detrimental to Indian security. On the other hand, India should pay due attention

to Bangladesh's security concerns and take necessary steps to remedy the existing problems. In the interest of a strong bilateral relationship, while it is important for Bangladesh to understand and address India's security concerns, in turn, it is imperative for India to give back the same for Bangladesh.

7.3: Non-Traditional Security Concern

7.3.1: Environmental Security Alarm

The ecological destiny of Bangladesh and India are integrated for both the countries sharing common river basins and hydrological cycles. As an agrarian state, Bangladesh is mostly dependent on the fifty four rivers that flow Bangladesh from India carrying water. The availability of river water in Bangladesh, both during monsoon and dry season is determined by the level of water flow from upstream, i.e. India. But unilateral withdrawal of river water by the India makes a catastrophic consequence for Bangladesh. Moreover, India is actively planned to build dam on the Barak river. The proposed dam has raised environmental concerns and already has become a political issue in Bangladesh, which is still experiencing the adverse impacts of the Ganges and the Teesta barrages built in India. Thus, dam on the Barak river would result into drying up of the Surma and the Kushiara river. In addition, Indian government is also implementing its 'river linking project' to link up major rivers to hold up water in reservoirs and to channel it to the north-east and southern India. The dam and the river linking project will render negative ecological and environmental changes in Bangladesh having security fall out. It will create millions of IDPs impacting national and trans-national stability and peace.

7.3.2: Water Security: Geopolitical Considerations

As water moves through the hydrologic cycle which can occur attentions to political boundaries and conflicts that often result between differing political units. The trans-boundary water issues is also make solving the problem of sharing trans-boundary water in the construction of dam, in most cases in upper riparian locations. Therefore, in the case of Tipaimukh Dam, India should be aware of that the conflict is between the goals of water supply and hydropower versus the goals of livelihood security, social and environmental preservation.

Conflict over sharing water can result from many factors. Conflicts take place between neighbours, communities, states, regions, and nations. The sources contributing to conflict

include conflicting goals, factual disagreements, and ineffective relationships. There is some arguments of insufficiency of water which could be potential for conflict in future including India, as a nuclear-armed and strong rising power, exercises much influence in the region, especially in Tibet with which it has cultural affinities. India is also apparent as challenging a potential counterweight to China's regional power (Wikipedia, 2008). Moreover, India played a major role in the establishment of an independent Bangladesh in 1971.

According to Mehrotra (2008), New Delhi's relations with Dhaka have neither been close, nor free from irritants and disputes. In 1975, Bangladesh began to move away from language base (Bengali) to religious (Muslim) as the binding force of Bangladeshi nationalism which emphasises on Islam. Moreover, , Bangladeshi concerns over India's military build-up, bilateral disputes over sharing water resources, smuggling, attacking on Hindu minorities and religious places in Bangladesh, and drug trafficking make for fluctuations in Indo-Bangladesh relations and threaten the security of the region. Subsequently, New Delhi has raised questions to Pakistani and Bangladeshi militant groups for attacks on religious sites, public venues and public transportation in India.

Mehrotra (2008) added that more than 120 militant groups operated in India's northeast. Some of this operation against the militants, and some of them are negotiating by the government, led to a relative stability in the region. However, it continues to be a tinderbox. Some of the top Indian militants, active particularly in Northeast India, seeking sanctuary in Bangladesh belong to the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) in Tripura, United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA), the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), and the Kanlei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL).

The other contentious issue between India and Bangladesh arises from its riparian borders. The Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed between India and Bangladesh in 1974, has been implemented, except for three issues: demarcation of 6.1 km border in three sectors, e.g. Lathitilla-Dumabari (3 km in Assam sector), South Berubari (1.5 km in West Bengal sector), and Muhuri river/ Belonia sector (1.6 km in Tripura); exchange of adverse possession; and exchange of enclaves. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and

51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India. Two joint boundary working groups were set up in 2001 to resolve these pending LBA issues. Article 3 of the LBA provides for the people in these enclaves to be given the right to stay on as nationals of the state to which the enclaves are transferred. Therefore, the government has requested for a joint survey/census of the enclaves. However, any joint surveys are extraneous to the LBA provisions and are not a pre-condition to the exchange of the enclaves, and India emphasizes this requirement for border fencing within and up to 150 yards of the international border even as Bangladesh stresses the need to conform to the 1975 border guidelines and to avoid any action that may adversely impact peace and stability in the border areas (Mehrotra, 2008). Under the circumstances where India is busy calming its western borders, the eastern border could suffer from greater instability.

7.3.3: Economic Security Concern

Physical proximity has made India the biggest trading partner of Bangladesh while the balance of payment has constantly partial towards India. Moreover, large volumes of irregular and informal trade are along the border areas. In the formal way, Bangladesh's imports in 2007-2008 Fiscal Year (FY) were worth \$3.274 billion and its exports to India were only worth \$358 million in the same year. This issue continues to be a major irritant in Indo-Bangladesh relations as India is perceived to be indifferent to Bangladesh's request to balance the trade relations. Even today, Indian market remains inaccessible for Bangladeshi products for its intriguing and complex trade regime, beset with tariff, semi tariffs and non-tariff barriers imposed over the years. This gross imbalance in trade for decades has caused economic insecurity for Bangladesh and it put increased emphasis and pressure for resolving this nuisance issue aggravating relations with its neighbour. In this cooperative setting of engagement it is also in India's interest to minimize the gaps and seek a feasible solution for the outstanding issues between the countries.

7.3.4: Culture Security Concern

The flow of information and cultural exchanges and literature between Bangladesh and India has become grossly one-sided. While Indian television channels have open and wide access to Bangladesh, the latter does not enjoy the same in India. It must be mentioned that Bangladeshi TV programmes are traditionally very popular with the Bengali speaking Indians. This has led a cultural disparity and culture is not mutually exchanged. The denial of information leads to denial of appreciation of the truth regarding each other.

Appreciation reduces the gaps in understanding the dynamics of bilateral relations. This issue should be taken seriously and equal access of Bangladeshi media to India needs to be ensured. Through a process of mutual exchange of information and culture, better understanding and cooperation can be assured.

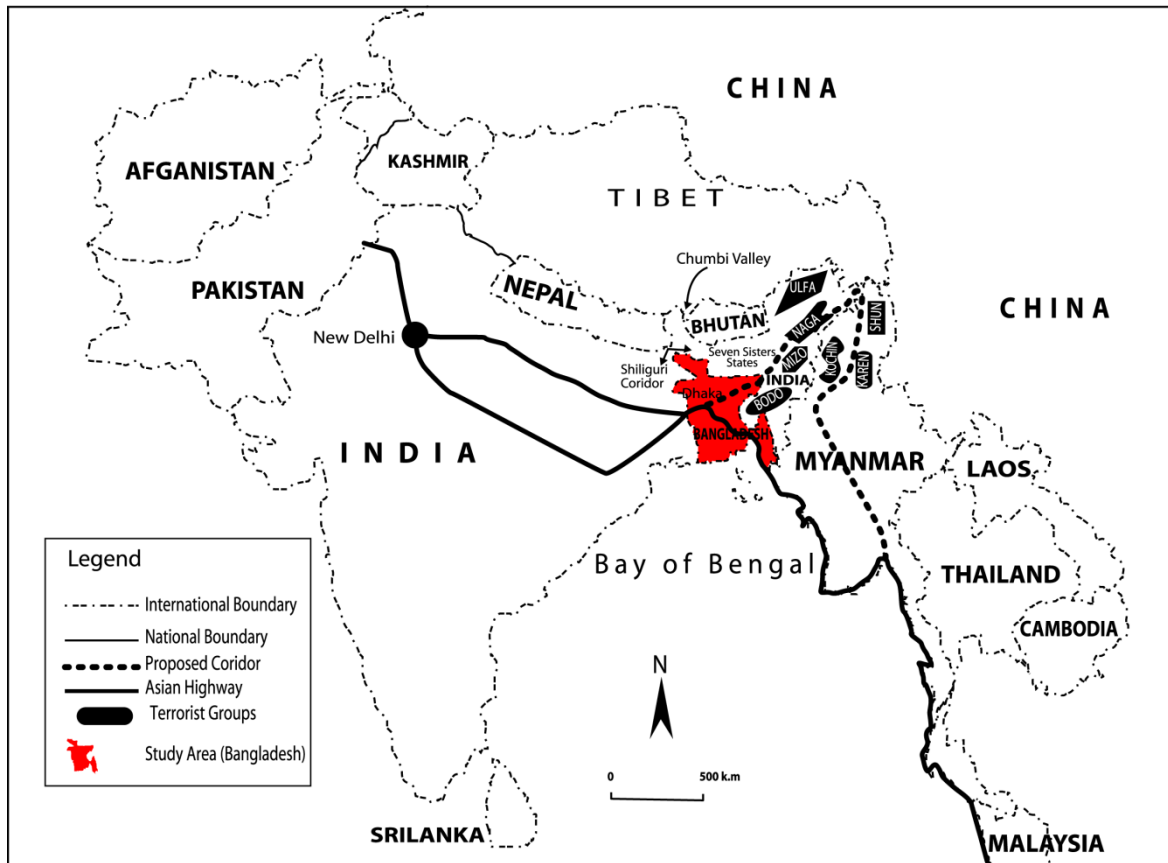
7.3.5: Racial Crisis

The matrix of political instability is however, an outcome of the failure of nation building process in Bangladesh, Nation building is indeed a difficult task for almost all countries but for Bangladesh it is rather an artificial problem as it in terms of ethnic, linguistic and cultural homogeneity commands the second top position in the World after the two Koreas. Almost 98 per cent of the population is made up of the Bengalis. The Sautals numbering about 50,000 live in the north-western districts of Dinajpur and Rajshahi. The Khasias, Garos, Khajongs or Khogangs (each of which number about 40,000) and a few thousand Dalus inhabit in the north eastern region of Mymensingh and Sylhet. The south-eastern region of the country, the CHTs is inhabited by 13 minority ethnic races that include the Chakmas, Marmas, the Tipperas, the Morangs and others. The Chakmas alone constitute nearly 47.89% of the total tribal population in the CHTs. which covers 10% of the total area of Bangladesh.

7.4: Indo-Bangladesh Security Concern

The present study reveals that India intends to ensure the geopolitical and security interest to its eastern seven sister states through the transit facility. Forth largest Muslim country of the world, Bangladesh is surrounded by the fourth largest military power and 2nd largest populated country and its eastern seven sisters' hilly states e.g. Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal confined Bangladesh almost landlocked. Mizoram of north-eastern India is only 96/113 km far away from Chittagong seaport. But India has to cross about 2,000 km land way through the narrow strip of Shiliguri corridor, north Bengal, Kolkata of west Bengal to reach at the Holdia seaport of India territory.

Figure-7.1: Local Terrorist Groups in the Seven Sister States of India and Myanmar



Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

In the same way, the southern port Tripura, Sabrum (linked with the Feni River) is only 48/64 km far away from the Bay of Bengal which takes 1500/2000 km to reach at the sea water of India. In 1962 China cross the Makmohon Line and control half of Assam and Arunachal (NEFA). However, Myanmar supports the Mezzo, Lucia, Manipuri, Koki and ULFA extremists. On the other hands, India helps the revolts Shan, Cochin, Karen extremists of Myanmar and helps the Chakma extremists of Bangladesh with arms and ammunicions. As a result, there is a possibility for attack of extremist gorillas against the Indian army and BSF. Moreover, China, Myanmar and other external power may interfere into the matter.

Future super power of the world, economic power communist states, China obviously pokes its nose into the matter of this region. China has to get into the Bay of Bengal, gateway of Indian sub-continent. In this connection, China will cross the Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and CHTs from its own province Unan about 700/800 km to reach the Bay of Bengal.

For ensuring such facilities China has to compromise with India, Bangladesh and the extremist viz. ULFA, Chakma in this region. The Probable route of China is Sikkim and Chumbi Volley of China at the northern hilly valley of Bhutan. In this route, China has to cross only 63 miles hilly areas of India (Duas and Tarai) to reach Tutuila, a northern part of Bangladesh and with the help of Bangladesh it is to reach the Bay of Bengal through the country. For getting facility through this route china has to contend the main competitor India. However, the western commentator of Uni-polar World System e.g. USA, UK, France and other western countries will not appreciate to provide the transit to China. In such situation thousands of Marine Forces and Air Force of USA will come to this region within a very short time from USA Navel-Base Diego-Garcia to protect China.

Nicobor Andaman islands of India, a strong navel port of the Bay of Bengal and port blear also will play a vital play role to defeat the regional powers. In order to protect China, India already set up a largest Airport at Bagdugrai of Nokshalbari near the Shiliguri corridor and near the Banglabanda, northern boundary point of Bangladesh. Moreover, Tejpur, Kolaikunta, Digbrugar, Lumding of Assam and many more Geostrategic places India established at least 25/30 military airports and airstrips. However, India has to keep reserve 3/4 lakhs of military Forces and a large number of air forces at the north-eastern part of the country.

North of Shiliguri Corridor Independent hilly landlocked states i.e. Nepal, Bhutan and south of this corridor freedom loving Muslim state, Bangladesh (Rob, 2006). Now-a-day extreme policy against India and leftist communist policy of China is becoming active in Nepal. The Indian geo-strategists have the doubt that leftist China communist policy follower Nepal can block the Shiliguri corridor of India at any political crises (Sukhwal, 1971). In order to overcome such crises India may take the risk to overrun the “Rangpur Shedle” to keep contact between west Bengal and north-east part of India if they fail to ensure the transit facilities (Subrahmanyam, 1983). As a result, there is no other alternative to confirm and implement of transit agreement in these regions.

7.5: Environment of Bangladesh

A state's security is manoeuvrability heavily dependent upon its geopolitical environment. Geopolitically Bangladesh belongs to the South Asian region which consists of less than 2% of the world land mass but provides living space for one-fifth of the total humanity of

the world. Geo-strategically it is important on many reasons. First, littoral area of the Indian Ocean which, following the withdrawal of the British from the East of Suez in 1968, which has been the theatre of superpower conflicts. The frantic competition for control of the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean led to incessant military build-ups in and around the area and it had its repercussions on the South Asian region. Although, the ongoing detente between the two super powers has contributed to an unprecedented state of peace in East-West relations none of the two superpowers has militarily dismantled from the volatile Indian Ocean region. Second, the region geographically borders on the sphere of influence of one of the super powers and maintains close geographic proximity to another great power-China. Third, the region is contiguous to geo-strategically important and potentially unstable area of the Persian Gulf where 60% of the World's oil reserves are located. It is also an important part of the Asia-Pacific region which is emerging as the new theatre of world politics. Finally, the region connects west Asia on the west and south-east Asia on the east and then completes the geographic bridge between the two regions.

Bangladesh, with a territory of 1,57,570 sq km, constitutes the eastern most part of this geo-strategically important South Asian region. But she is almost entirely bounded by India on three sides- the north, the east, and the west with a common border of 2566 miles. In the south-east near Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, it has a little boundary with Myanmar with a common border of 176 miles. In the south it is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal with a coastal boundary of 257 miles. Bangladesh is a deltaic flat alluvial terrain that shares no less than 54 rivers with India many of which originate in the Himalayan ranges in the north and east but flow through Bangladesh. These include the three major river systems-the Ganga, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna that have hundreds of shifting channels of varying width and depth. Bangladesh gets almost 92% of its waters flowing through these rivers. The key to the control of the rivers, however, lies with India, the upper riparian state.

7.6: Strategies for Security Maintenance

Security is perception views, strategy which is the mechanism to overcome our perception of insecurity. It is the way to fight and minimize the insecurities. The perception of security and insecurity however, still seems to be at the preliminary stage in Bangladesh. The strategy pursued in our relations to the external world may best be termed

multilateralism. This strategy is an inevitable outcome of the post 1975 developments in Bangladesh. The serious setbacks are developed in Indo-Bangladesh relations after mid-1975 led to the development of this strategy. The ruling elites in Dhaka in the post-75 period sensed only one source of eternal threat-India.

7.7: Bangladesh and the Non-aligned Movement

Bangladesh obtained the membership of the Non-Aligned Movement at its Algiers summit in 1973. It found a total harmony with the moral and ideological principles of the Non-aligned movement, for it reflected bloc politics, political dominance and advocated for a new world order. The president joined the Algiers summit at a time when the economy was weak, the infrastructure broke down, and there was general dislocation throughout the country that for immediate efforts at rehabilitation and reconstruction-a task that required international assistance on a large scale.

7.8: Bangladesh and the UN Arrangement

Faith in the principles of UN Charter constitutes the most important cornerstone of the foreign policy of Bangladesh. It got membership of the world body on 17 September 1974. During the past few years our government leaders made use of every opportunity to project our views on global and other issues in different for a of the UN. This has contributed to her strong standing among the comity of nations. It was elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a period of two years (1979-81). Bangladesh also presided over the 42nd annual meeting of the Un General Assembly. This is recognition to her constructive role in the UN over the past years.

7.9: Recommendations for Security Strengthen Bangladesh

First, an elaborate and comprehensive internal security strategy should take covering socio-economic and political aspects of the country and execute the strategy immediately.

Second, there should be a clear awareness regarding the future of armed forces in Bangladesh. The prevailing mood in the country seems to be that Bangladesh needs to deemphasize the role of military in guaranteeing her security which can be ensured more effectively thought development.

Third, a policy of accommodation should be pursued in Bangladesh's bilateral dealings with India. Bangladesh's relations with India must be viewed and appreciated in realistic terms. India is the dominant factor in Bangladesh's foreign policy and not vice versa. Therefore, Bangladesh has to take into account a number of factors while formulating the course of her bilateral ties with India. First, India offered invaluable assistance to Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. Second, India is the largest neighbour flanking Bangladesh on three sides, and third, most importantly, Bangladesh has a number of outstanding issues with India some of which are of vital importance to her economy and survival.

Fourth, the current strategy of multilateralism should be pursued by all means in Bangladesh's external dealings. This strategy would act as insurance to all other leverages in the national security pursuits.

7.10: Conclusion

Bangladesh considers India as a dominating nation, but to increase mutual trust, the opportunities provided can be economic but the challenges are political, i.e., terrorism, fundamentalism and political misuse of religion. Moreover, ensuring India's internal security, and to deal with challenges arising from its bordering countries, New Delhi must forward closer linkages with the border population, protect them from rebellious propaganda, prevent unauthorized settlements and initiate special developmental programs.

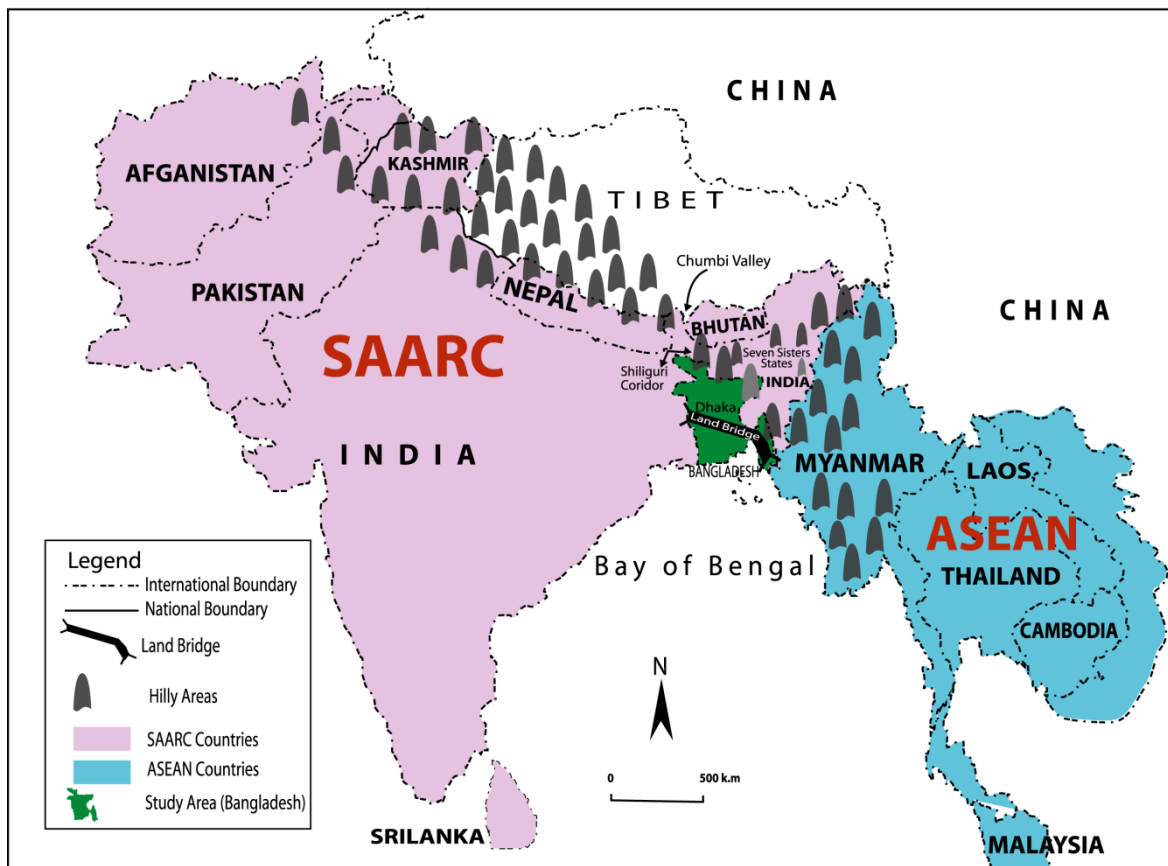
CHAPTER EIGHT: INTER RELATIONSHIP OF BRIDGE-CONCEPT IN THE LIGHT OF GEOPOLITICS AND GEO-STRATEGY OF SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA (SAARC AND ASEAN)

8.1: Introduction

The geographical location of Bangladesh bridges between the SAARC to the west (South Asian countries) and ASEAN to the east (South-East Asian countries). The northern part of Bangladesh, there is a huge natural wall, the Himalayas from north of Kashmir to the edges of Myanmar. It hampers the normal route of connecting the South-Western countries e.g. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka to the South-East Asian countries e.g. Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines. However, between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh, an only plain land making a land-link of its western countries to east countries of the South-East Asia. In another word, Bangladesh bridges between these two regional blocks, the SAARC and the ASEAN.

The SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), a south Asian socio-economical, and cultural regional block that was formed in seven member states, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka with signing a charter by the head of government. Moreover, Afghanistan joined this association as the number eight member country in 2007. The main goals of the SAARC is to cooperate regionally, to work together towards finding solutions towards common problems in spirit of friendship, trust and mutual understanding, and to the creation of an order based on mutual respect, equity, and shared benefits. In addition, it accelerates the process to economic and social development of respective countries through the optimum utilization of human and material resources, and promotes the welfare and prosperity of people and improves quality of life.

Finally, all member countries of SARRC must have an understanding that security as an essential prerequisite for the realization of the objectives.

Figure- 8.1: A land Bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN Countries

Source: Compiled by Faruk, 2013

On the other hand, the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), a Southeast Asian regional block which has already emerged in its most successful and colorful regionalism in Asia with a total member of ten nations states including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines. In the beginning, it was established with only a five members in 1967, and in the last two decades, Southeast Asian economies have enjoyed unprecedented rates of economics growth that were well above the world average.

In the age of globalization, the SAARC and the ASEAN regional blocks have played important roles with having almost a similar cultural, linguistic, religious, colonial histories, and heritages. In fact, these similarities have influenced to come closer to harness the benefit of new world order and globalization of new millennium. In these regional blocks, Bangladesh enjoys a central location position between the SAARC countries and the ASEAN countries.

Bangladesh, a nation of around 150 million people, occupies a pivotal geographical position over a fertile flood plain of about 1, 57,570 sq km in between the SAARC and the ASEAN blocks in Asia. Although, Bangladesh geographically occupies the north-western corner of the ASEAN, the political and cultural history emerges to manage the position opportunity in between the two prospective economic blocks, the SAARC and the ASEAN.

8.2: A Comparison Status between the SAARC and the ASEAN Countries

The SAARC is a socio-economical and cultural co-operative regional block of the south-eastern countries which locates in the western side of Bangladesh. On the other hand, The ASEAN is consisted with ten south-eastern Asian countries that locate south eastern sides of Bangladesh. The members of ASEAN regional group are: Indonesia, Malaysia (*Emerging Economic Tigers*), Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines.

The present study reveals that the SAARC and ASEAN countries bearing almost the similar culture, languages, religions, colonial history, and heritages that encourage these nations to make a regional great block in the south and south-east Asians countries in the present age of the globalization. In respect of geographical location of Bangladesh and it is bridging these two economic blocks the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks.

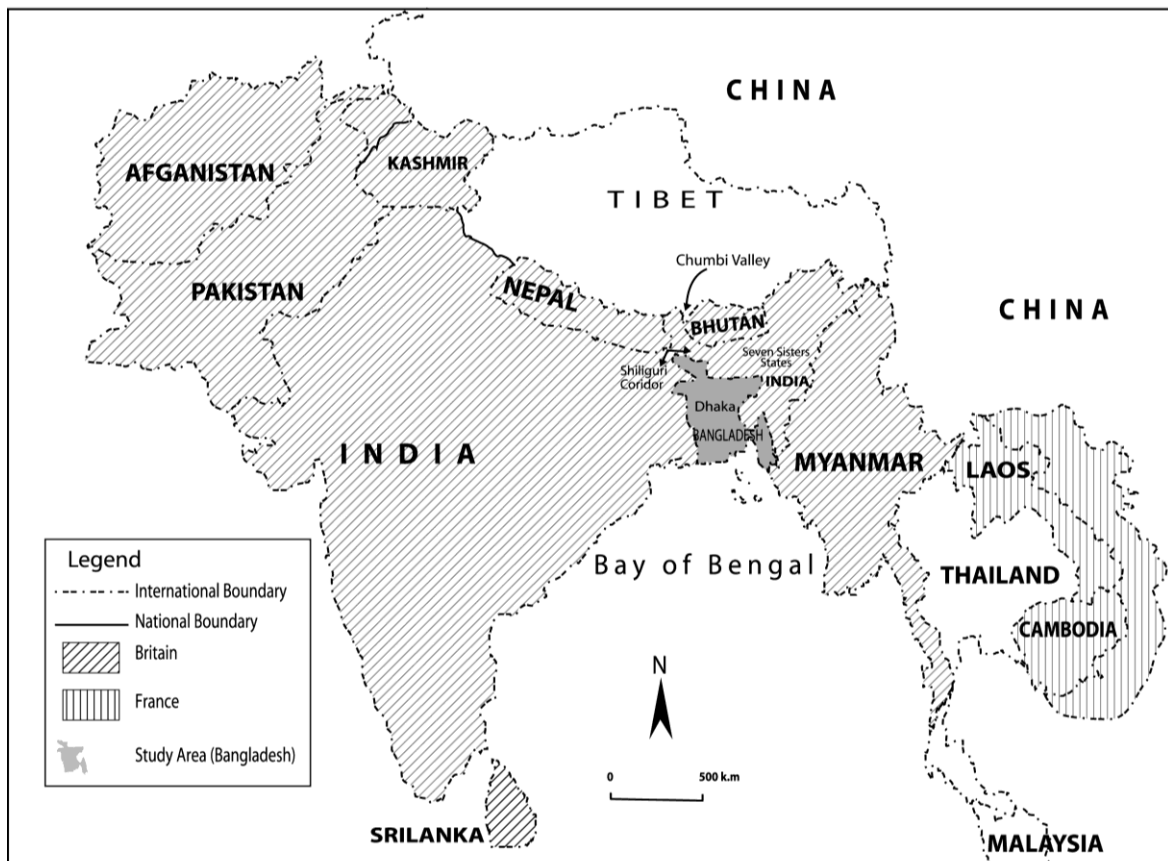
Table-8. 1: Colonial Status of the ASEAN and the SAARC Countries

Country	Independent Year	Independent from the country
ASEAN		
Myanmar	1948	Britain
Brunei	1984	Britain
Laos	1949	France
Cambodia	1953	France
Vietnam	1954	China/France
Singapore	1965	Malaysia
Philippines	1946	USA
Indonesia	1949	USA
Malaysia		
Thailand		Never was under any colonial power
SAARC		
Afghanistan	1919	Britain (Recently introduced)
India	1947	Britain
Pakistan	1947	Britain
Nepal	1869-1947	Britain
Sri Lanka	1948	Britain
Bhutan	1949	Britain
Maldives	1965	Britain
Bangladesh	1971	Britain/ Pakistan

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Moreover, Bangladesh plays a vital role in the field of geopolitical, geo-economical and geo-Strategic significances in respects of peace, defense and security concern in this region. Thus, geopolitical study of Bangladesh bears enormous significances in the field of applied political geography which deals as a Land-Bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries.

Figure-8.2: Colonial Status of the SAARC and the ASEAN Countries



Source : Compiled by Faruk, 2013.

The land-link road between the ASEAN and the SAARC countries can make an easy communication way connecting the South Asian countries to South East Asian countries which can make an economic growth among the potential developing nations of this region. The study reveals that geographical position between these two regional blocks, Bangladesh have assumed similarly active and positive roles which is common between the countries. In another international forum, Bangladesh has consistently supported each other position on international issues of common concern.

Bangladesh also share a fervent hope that the respective regional organizations, the SAARC and the ASEAN succeed in the endeavors dedication to engender an environment

conductive to peace and stability in their respective regions that will help to accelerate social and economic development of the country. In the same way, the ASEAN is also building a network among treaties, arrangements, and forums for political and economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The ASEAN has indeed prolonged its efforts on its stability and the economic well-being of the Asia-Pacific region.

Table-8.2: Religion Status in the ASEAN and the SAARC Countries

Countries	SAARC						
	Muslim (%)	Hindu (%)	Christian (%)	Buddhism (%)	Sikh (%)	Kirant (%)	Others/None (%)
Afghanistan	99 (Sunni 80 + Shia 19)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bangladesh	89.5	9.6	-	-	-	-	0.9
Bhutan	-	25	-	75	-	-	-
India	13.4	80.5	2.3	-	1.9	-	1.9
Pakistan	95 (Sunni 75 + Shia 20)	-	-	-	-	-	5
Nepal	4.2	80.6	-	10.7	-	3.6	0.9
Sri Lanka	7.6	7.1	6.2	69.1	-	-	10
Maldives	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASEAN							
Myanmar	4	-	4	89	-	-	3
Brunei	67	-	10	13	-	-	10
Cambodia	2.1	-	-	96.4	-	-	1.5
Indonesia	86.1	1.8	8.7	-	-	-	3.4
Laos	-	-	1.5	67	-	-	31.5
Malaysia	60.4	6.3	9.1	19.2	-	-	-
Philippines	5	-	85.4	-	-	-	9.6
Singapore	14.9	4	14.6	42.5	8.5	-	15.5
Thailand	4.6	-	0.7	94.6	-	-	0.1
Vietnam	0.1	-	7.2	9.3	-	80.8	2.6

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

8.3: Land Bridge

8.3.1: Bangladesh: A Land-Bridge

The northern part of Bangladesh, there is a huge natural wall, the Himalayas from north of Kashmir to the edges of Myanmar. Therefore, between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh is an only plain land making a land-link of its western countries (SAARC) to east countries (ASEAN). In another word, Bangladesh bridges between these two regional blocks, the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks.

Since, the rise of civilization in the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia stood on the banks of rivers and marshlands; this was not the only factor in the areas development of human society. This land glorify as the "bridge" between Africa and Eurasia. This "bridging role" has allowed the Fertile Crescent to retain a greater amount of biodiversity than either Europe or North Africa, where climate changes during the Ice Age which led to repeated extinction events, and the ecosystems became squeezed against the waters of the

Mediterranean Sea. Thus, this Middle Eastern land-bridge is of extreme importance to the modern distribution of Old World flora and fauna, including the spread of humanity (Wikipedia, 2013). The Second Eurasian Land Bridge is a new railway connecting the Pacific and the

Atlantic which includes China to Druzhba in Kazakhstan. This newest Eurasia land bridge extends west in China through six provinces—Jiangsu, Anhui, Henan, Shaanxi, Gansu, and Xinjiang autonomous region. Outside of China, the land bridge covers over 40 countries and regions in both Asia and Europe, and it is particularly important for the countries in Central and West Asia that do not have sea outlets (F. William Engdahl, 2012). Sooner than 2011, China has completed a Second Eurasian Land Bridge running from China's port of Lianyungang on the East China Sea thorough to Kazakhstan's Druzhba and on to Central Asia, West Asia and Europe to various European destinations, and finally to Rotterdam Port of Holland on the Atlantic coast.

Even, it ignore the US and the EU markets, there is a huge potentiality for sustainable development in Asia. Some of the other pieces of the Eurasian Land-Bridge are the southern corridors, and it likes a renewal of the old Silk Road as a concept was pushed on the impulse of China and Iran which involves very active participation of Turkey, the Central Asian republics, Russia, Pakistan, and India. For instance, the Bering Land Bridge was a land bridge connecting present day eastern Siberia and the USA, state of Alaska during Earth's historic ice ages. This land bridge was roughly 1,600 km north to south at its greatest extent which joins the north-eastern Asia to North America many times during the Pleistocene ice ages. It was not glaciated because snowfall was extremely light due to the southwesterly winds from the Pacific Ocean having lost the moisture over the fully glaciated Alaska Range (New World Encyclopedia, 2013).

8.4: Concepts of Other Land Bridges

8.4.1: Fertile Crescent

In the concept of Land Bridge, the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia retains a greater amount of biodiversity to either Europe or North Africa leading to repeated extinction events, and the ecosystems became squeezed against the waters of the Mediterranean Sea during the ice age.

8.4.2: Bering Straits

It was a land bridge connecting present day of eastern Siberia and the USA, state of Alaska during Earth's historic ice ages. Some scientists assumed that in the ice age the water in the Bering Straits was dried out, and it made a natural bridge between the eastern Siberia and North America.

8.4.3: Eurasian Land Bridge

Eurasian Land Bridge is a new railway connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic and it includes China to Druzhba in Kazakhstan. Outside of China, it covers over 40 countries and regions in both Asia and Europe, and it is particularly important for the countries in Central and West Asia that of have sea outlets

8.4.4: Turkey

Turkey is the gateway between Europe and Asia. The European continent is connected to the Asian continent by two land bridges on the Bosphorus. Due to its geographical location, the democratic system and the rapid economic growth over the past decade, the country has special political and economic significance at the international level.

8.5: Factors of Connecting the SAARC and ASEAN Countries

8.5.1: Security Concern

Security concern bears geopolitical, geo-strategical, and geo-economical significances of a country, specially the developing countries in the South-Asia, and South-East Asia, and Eastern Asian nations have more emphasized for their growing potentiality of occupying the world power position. Moreover, Bangladesh geographically connecting the South-East Asia (SAARC) to South-East Asia (ASEAN), and this land is near to China (future superpower) to the north. Therefore, Bangladesh has some security concern being an integrated part of India (a big neighbor with nuclear power), near to China, and next to the *Emerging Economic Tigers* (Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore).

8.5.2: Traditional Security

- National Security (Boundary Conflicts, Maritime Boundary Delimitation, Border
- Killing Look East Policy of India)

8.5.3: Non-traditional Security

- Social Security
- Environmental Security (Intellectual Cooperation of Sea level rising, Water Sharing in International rivers)
- Small arms, drugs, smuggling, Rohingya refugees Issue
- Peace (Terrorists, Extremists)
- Economy (Trade Balance, Labour Export, Agro-based products)
- Transportation and Communication (Road, Rail, Telecommunication, Gas pipe, Power Grid)
- Living standard (Per Capita Income, GDP, GNP)
- Healthcare, and
- Training and Education

8.6: Connecting Land Route

The geographical location between the huge natural wall of the Himalayas Ranges at the north and Bay of Bengal at the south of Bangladesh, there is a vast Bengal plain which can make a easy connection over the Naf river connecting the east Asian countries to west countries of Asia. Therefore, Bangladesh is linking these two regional blocks that make a straightforward communication for the people living in these regions.

The SARRC –ASEAN link route can also set up a great business markets among member countries of these two regional blocks. The study shows a huge number of Bangladeshis workers exported to the south-east ‘Emerging Economic Tigers’-Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore whose are contributing a big amount of money to Bangladesh government as remittance as well as their own family and personal economic and socio-economic developments.

8.7: Factors of Connecting Bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN

8.7.1: Geo-strategic Aspects

The present study reveals that Bangladesh has a vast geographic significance for its location. First, Bangladesh is bridging between the SAARC and the ASEAN, and these two upgrading regional blocks significantly plays roles in socio-economic and cultural development among the member countries. Subsequently, the south-east, and south Asian

countries are going to emerge the superpower where the economic growth and socio-economic status tremendously raise to the world class levels.

Second, all three sides of Bangladesh is surrounding by India that is integrated geographical parts of Indian subcontinent as the lower riparian country of the Ganges drainage system. India, a big upper catchment country of the Bengal basin with nuclear power directly and indirectly dominating its small developing countries thorough the new colonial techniques e.g. socio-economic, cultural, and environment controls to fulfill its desire setting up the ‘Indian Doctrine’. On the other hand, Bangladesh with land and maritime access has a significance to be near to future super power, China specially geo-strategic location between the SARRC and the ASEAN countries, and its huge markets.

Third, being a next door neighbor of *Emerging Economic Tigers*—Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, Bangladesh is also influenced its economic improvement. Already, Bangladesh has exported much man power to these raising potential countries, and it earns a huge amount of money as remittances and workers’ personal income.

Fourth, geographical location of Bangladesh is at the apex of the Bay of Bengal which connects with the Indian Ocean, and all other significant sea routes of it, and the Pacific Ocean. Moreover, Chittagong seaport has a vital geo-strategic position linking the SAARC and the ASEAN countries. In addition, it is near to China, and middle point of India with its seven sister states. In 1971, during the liberation war of Bangladesh, the 7th fleets of the USA came to this Bay supporting the West Pakistan. Therefore, geo-strategically, the Bay of Bengal is very suitable place that can help anyone to keep watching the future supper power countries e.g. India, and China from here.

8.7.2: Geo-Economical Aspects

The table below shows that among the intra-SARRC –ASEAN countries trade from 1950 to 2008. It shows a statistical picture of gradually increasing i.e. 2.8 % to 25.8% of trade trend between these regional blocks of South and South-East Asia.

Table-8.3: Trend in Intra-SARRC-ASEAN Trade (%) from 1950-2008

Regional Blocks	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2008
ASEAN	2.8	12.7	22.4	15.9	17.0	21.0	22.7	25.8
SARRC	11.6	5.0	3.2	3.5	2.7	4.3	4.5	4.8

Source: UNCTAD, 2006.

Therefore, Bangladesh can play a bridging role to exchange raw materials industrial goods, exchanging experts and technological supports to add further value on the production, and establishing a modern communication system for more movements of skills workers, goods, and experts between these two regional blocks.

Table-8.4: Rice Production in the Asian Regions

Region	Production (M T)		Share (%)	
	1970	2011	1970	2011
East Asia	137.4	219.9	43.4	30.4
Southeast Asia	63.5	206.8	20.0	28.6
South Asia	87.7	221.6	27.7	30.6
Asia	290.1	653.2	91.7	90.4
World	316.3	722.8	100.0	100.0

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

The table shows that East Asia and South-East Asia has an increasing business performance to trade (export and import) to its south-east and south Asian countries whereas Bangladesh has a significance role in connecting the economic movement between these two regions.

Table-8.5: Imported by the Asian Regions (M T)

Region (Major Importing Countries)	% of Rice Imported (M T)		% of Production (2011)
	1990	2011	
East Asia (China, Japan, Republic of Korea)	0.53	1.98	
SAARC (Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka)	0.63 (5%)	0.98(3%)	< 1% of Production
ASEAN (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore)	1.27 (10 %)	4.47(14%)	2% of Production
Asia	4.85(40%)	14.01 (45%)	
World	12.27	31.19	4% of Production

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

The above table shows the export/ import ratio in SAARC countries was <1 (0.83 in 1990 and 0.96 in 2010). Trade deficit region (-USD 1.33 billion). On the other hand, Export/ Import ratio in ASEAN countries was >1 (1.60 in 1990 and 1.74 in 2010). Trade surplus in this region is region (+USD 43 billion).

Table-8.6: Exported by the Asian Regions (M T)

Region (Major Exporting Countries)	% of Rice Exported (M T)		% of Production (2011)
	1990	2011	
East Asia (China)	0.47	0.67	
SAARC (Pakistan, India)	1.25 (10%)	6.42(20%)	3% of Production
ASEAN (Thailand, Vietnam)	5.86 (47%)	16.05(49%)	8% of Production
Asia	7.77(62%)	23.83(72.7%)	
World	12.46	32.77	

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

The tables show that there are rice import-export relation between the SAARC (Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka) and the ASEAN (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore) countries.

Table-8.7: Important Export Commodities from ASEAN and Import Commodities from SAARC Countries

ASEAN		SAARC	
Exporter Countries	Commodities	Importer Countries	Commodities
Indonesia	Palm Oil, Rubber, Palm Kernel Oil, Cocoa Bean, Coffee Green	Bhutan	Rice, Raw Sugar, Soybean Oil, Barley Beer, Skimmed Milk
Malaysia	Palm Oil, Rubber, Oil Hydrogenated, Cocoa Butter, , Palm Kernel Oil	Bangladesh	Palm Oil, Raw Sugar, Wheat, Cotton, Soybean Oil
Philippines	Coconut Oil, Bananas, Milk, Pineapple, Cigarettes	India	Palm Oil, Soybean Oil, Dry Beans, Rubber, Cashew Nuts
Thailand	Rubber, Rice , Chicken, Meat, Refined Sugar, Cassava	Nepal	Palm Oil, Soybean Oil, Areca Nuts, Rice, Soybean Cake
Viet Nam	Rice, Rubber, Coffee Green, Cashew Nut, Pepper	Pakistan	Palm Oil, Refined Sugar, Cotton Lint, Rapeseeds, Tea
		Sri Lanka	Palm Oil, Sugar, Wheat, Milk, Lentil

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

The above table shows that Indonesia exports Palm Oil, Rubber, Palm Kernel Oil, Cocoa Bean, Coffee Green, Philippines exports Coconut Oil, Bananas, Milk, Pineapple, Cigarettes, Thailand exports Rubber, Rice , Chicken, Meat, Refined Sugar, Cassava, and Viet Nam exports Rice, Rubber, Coffee Green, Cashew Nut, Pepper to SAARC countries. On the other hand, Bhutan imports Rice, Raw Sugar, Soybean Oil, Barley Beer, Skimmed Milk, Bangladesh imports Palm Oil, Raw Sugar, Wheat, Cotton, Soybean Oil, India imports Palm Oil, Soybean Oil, Dry Beans, Rubber, Cashew Nuts, Nepal imports Palm Oil, Soybean Oil, Areca Nuts, Rice, Soybean Cake, Pakistan imports Palm Oil, Refined Sugar, Cotton Lint, Rapeseeds, Tea, and Sri Lanka imports Palm Oil, Sugar, Wheat, Milk, Lentil from ASEAN countries. Hence, there is an export-import relationship between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries. And, geographically, geo-politically, and geo-economically Bangladesh can play a vital role bridging these two substantial regional blocks in South-East and South Asia

Table-8.8: Important Import Commodities by ASEAN and Export Commodities by SAARC Countries

ASEAN		SAARC	
Importer Countries	Commodities	Exporter Countries	Commodities
Indonesia	Soybean Cake, Cotton lint, rice, wheat, soybean, raw sugar	Bhutan	Orange, Cardamom, potatoes, apples, fruit juices, mushrooms
Malaysia	Palm oil, rubber, cocoa bean, rubber, sugar	Bangladesh	Cotton lint, jute, tobaccos, nuts, fresh vegetables, sesame seeds
Philippines	Rice, soybean cake, wheat, skimmed milk, refined sugar	India	Soybean cake, cotton lint, rice, sugar, buffalo meat, tobacco, tea
Thailand	Soybean cake, soybean, cotton lint, wheat	Nepal	Lentil, tea, cardamom, beverages(non alc), nuts, ginger
Viet Nam	Pastry, chicken meat, cigarettes, beverages (dist alc)	Pakistan	Cotton lint, rice, tangerines, oil hydrogenated, cattle meat, potatoes
		Sri Lanka	Tea, rubber, wheat flour, cinnamon, coconut, food wastes, pepper

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

The above table shows that Indonesia imports Soybean Cake, Cotton lint, rice, wheat, soybean, raw sugar, Malaysia imports Palm oil, rubber, cocoa bean, rubber, sugar, Philippines imports Rice, soybean cake, wheat, skimmed milk, refined sugar, Thailand imports Soybean cake, soybean, cotton lint, wheat, and Viet Nam imports Pastry, chicken meat, cigarettes, beverages (dist alc) from SAARC countries.

On the other hand, Bhutan exports Orange, Cardamom, potatoes, apples, fruit juices, mushrooms, Bangladesh exports Cotton lint, jute, tobaccos, nuts, fresh vegetables, sesame seeds, India exports Soybean cake, cotton lint, rice, sugar, buffalo meat, tobacco, tea, Nepal exports Lentil, tea, cardamom, beverages(non alc), nuts, ginger, Pakistan exports Cotton lint, rice, tangerines, oil hydrogenated, cattle meat, potatoes, and Sri Lanka exports Tea, rubber, wheat flour, cinnamon, coconut, food wastes, pepper to ASEAN countries. Hence, there is an export-import relationship between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries. And, geographically, geo-politically, and geo-economically Bangladesh can play a vital role bridging these two substantial regional blocks in South-East and South Asia

8.8: Existing Areas of cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN

8.8.1: Indo-ASEAN Trade

Trade increased from USD 30.7 billion in 2006-2007 to USD 39.08 billion in 2007-2008; USD 45.34 billion in 2008-2009, and USD 70 billion (est.) in 2012.

8.8.2: India-ASEAN Trade Green Fund

Promote agriculture sector and Research and Development USD 5 million for pilot projects to promote adaptation and mitigation technologies on climate change.

8.8.3: ASEAN-India Scientist and Technology Fund

Promote science and technology in a partnership mode

8.8.4: Opportunities for Trade between the SAARC and ASEAN counties

Palm oil, rice rubber can export from ASEAN to SAARC. Rice, wheat, milk, cotton lint, soybean, and soybean cake from SAARC to ASEAN

8.9: Movement of Skilled Workers

The SAARC-ASEAN link route can be easy and cheap communication system among the member countries for these huge numbers of workers in the regions. In addition, this land bridge can influence expertise to move intra-regional places to earn more money and contribute their skills for further development and run the existing systems.

Table-8.9: Country wise workers' Export, 1999-2010

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Ave
Malaysia	17237	4921	85	28	224	2911	20469	273201	131762	12402	291	98.69
Singapore	11095	9615	6870	5304	6948	9651	20139	38324	56851	39581	18696	5302.40

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, 2010.

8.10: Support in Economic Growth

In south-east Asian countries has a positive trend of its economic growth in the contemporary era of globalization. Hence, the land bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries can help of movement man, and products of goods that may add fuel to the recent trend of economic growth of the south-east Asian nations.

Table-8.10: Country wise workers' Remittances, 1999-2010(US mi dollars)

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Ave
Malaysia	271.87	164.69	269.44	239.75	218.43	156.49	140.26	81.8	633.86	194.98	587.10	427.97
Singapore	58.51	42.2	82.05	179.84	190.79	294.81	436.3	554.64	892.49	1136.71	193.50	369.26

Source: Bangladesh Bank, 2010.

8.11: Socio-Economical Balance

The study shows that most of the countries of SAARC and the ASEAN have same culture, tradition, religion, and colonial history and heritage which can be strength for the

inhabitants in communication among the intra-regional movement thorough the land-bridge of Bangladesh.

8.12: Export and Import

In consideration of export-import among the south-east Asian nations, there is a positive business operational relationship between the SAARC and ASEAN countries. The study shows that the South Asian country has gradually set up a communication with the south-east Asian countries (ASEAN).

Table-8.11: The Export- Import Ratio, 1999-2010

Export-Import	Periods (Years)											Ave
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Total Export –Import Ratio to ASEAN (%)	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.06
Total Export –Import Ratio of Bangladesh	0.55	0.59	0.57	0.54	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.62	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.57

Source: Bangladesh Bank, 2010.

Hence, the bridge-concept can make this economical bond more fruitful to the economic growth among these south, and south-east Asian nations. In addition, a large number of Bangladeshi workers have already worked for the Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore (*Emerging Economic Tigers*), and they contribute to the development of the country as well as getting money for their own solvency. Thus, the land bridge can make an easy and cheap communication route for the east to west of the Asian countries through Bangladesh.

8.13: Intra-regional Education and Training Programs

The land-bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries may be an opportunity for the student learners to have well and technological education facilities in the intra-regional standard institutions, and universities to enhance their skills to compete with the challenges of present job markets. Therefore, the educational institutions will also try to uphold the world class standard education doing business on it like the North American trend to influence the Asian students to earn more money.

8.14: Negative Effects of Land-Bridge

The land-bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries may have some negative effects among the intra-regional blocks specially Bangladesh for its link connection. First, powerful nation like India may have a dominance tendency to its small developing counties that affect on the socio-economic, cultural, and political aspects in individuals.

Second, industries of economic raising countries may fall in danger to have a competitive situation for its existence. Third, having tariff and non-tariff facilities, powerful countries may have more facility in export and import than the developing countries. Therefore, there may occur business unbalance among the intra-regional countries. Fourth, in the intra-regional communication system, the drivers and other staffs, and goods can carry variety of diseases e.g. flues, jaundice, aids, and it can affects on people specially in the transitional hubs areas (e.g. Chittagong, Dhaka). Fifth, the land bridge can affects on intra-regional security concern. Sixth, it can have an effect on cultural activities, and manners.

Although, there are some possibilities of negative impact of the land-bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN countries, it will increase a intra-regional relationship among the member countries that can contribute a lot in many way e.g. education, training, security, peace, living standard, healthcare, and social security in the regions.

8.15: Experts Opinion on Recent Indian Foreign Policy

Economic diplomacy will undoubtedly play a central role in Modi's efforts. After all, India's international prominence is based largely on its economic potential. Among India's top priorities should be measures to strengthen its relationships in its immediate neighborhood. Modi has already highlighted the imperative of making the SAARC, a living body. A more peaceful and prosperous future will demand a clear and credible strategic vision from Modi, including a zero tolerance approach to terrorists and their sponsors. Increased investment and defense cooperation with Japan will add much-needed substance to India's "Look East" policy, which could be advanced further by implementing long-planned projects with Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand, as well as by building road and maritime infrastructure and strengthening trade links (Jaswant Singh, March, 2014).

India has an influence in its own backyard – Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Moreover, Bhutan remains India's sole pocket of strategic clout in South Asia. Modi's victory is likely to turn Indo-Japanese ties – Asia's fastest-developing bilateral relationship – into the main driver of India's "Look East" strategy to strengthen economic and strategic cooperation with US allies and partners in East and Southeast Asia (Brahma Chellaney, 2014).

CHAPTER NINE: CONCLUSION

9.1: Introduction

Bangladesh is a highly populated and small developing country in the south-east Asia which bears vital geopolitical significances for its suitable geographical position between the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks. Moreover, an upper catchment big country with nuclear power is surrounding by three sides of it, and about 230 rivers come from this country to Bangladesh. Furthermore, day-dreaming of ‘the Indian Doctrine’ this neighbor country intentionally confirms control on the Ganges river which severely affects in the entire south-eastern part of the country, and it is going to build up a dam on the Borak river at Tipaimukh in Monipur that is another environmental deadly trap for the Bangladeshis in the north, northeast, and the middle parts of the country. On the other hand, the western developed declining countries specially the USA and its white relatives has a decoying tend to control raising countries of south, south-east, and east Asian countries thorough NGOs aids, missionary activities, paid brokers, and their direct officials e.g. ambassadors and high commissions. Thus, geographical location of Bangladesh makes it a suitable platform to deal with the raising supper power countries, India, and Chain. Hence, the geo-strategic position of Bangladesh bears an immense significance for its location in the gateway of Indian subcontinent, apex of the Bay of Bengal, South-east Asia, position of India, neat to China, and next to the ‘*Emerging Economic Tigers*’-Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

9.2: Major Findings of the Study

Both China and India are the raising supper power in the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks whose have a substantial influence over the other member countries of these Regional Blocks. Both of the countries have huge economical and strategical significances in these regions. Therefore, geographical location of Bangladesh in between the SAARC and ASEAN Blocks and adjacent to Indo-China, it can play a vital role to a cooperative relation among the member countries. Thus, Indo-China, and Bangladesh can be benefited regarding national security, maritime resources, sea route and land route, economy, natural resources, and cultural aspects.

Since, Bangladesh is surrounding by India (SAARC) on the west, north, and eastern side, and Myanmar (ASEAN) on the south-eastern side of the country, and it nears to China. Therefore, Bangladesh can play a vital role to make agreements among the countries to explore and use natural resources for the industrial developments.

In the recent years, due to global warming sea level is rising in the SAARC and ASEAN regions like the other parts of the world. Therefore, the experts' cooperation of the SAARC and ASEAN region can take necessary plans and initiatives e.g. public awareness to reduce carbon di-oxide, CFC etc. to protect the ultimate fallout of global warming.

Recently, a huge amount of natural resources have found in the off-shore areas of Myanmar. Moreover, India is planning to import gas from Myanmar thorough Bangladesh by gas pipe line. Therefore, Bangladesh can play a vital role to connect these countries of the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks, and Bangladesh can also be benefited in the same way to use natural gas from Myanmar for producing electricity of fulfillment the own power shortage.

The changed Asian Highway, a geopolitical hidden trap for Bangladesh. It will be a big threat for Bangladesh regarding its sovereignty and national security. It reveals the influences of neighbors and other western countries on economy, culture, society, and politics.

Myanmar supports the Mezo, Naga, Bodo, Manipuri, Koki and ULFA extremists. On the other hands, India helps the revolts —Shan, Cochin, Karen extremists of Myanmar and the Chakma extremists (*Shanti Bahini*) of CHTs of Bangladesh with arms and ammunitions. As a result, there is a possibility for attack of extremist gorillas against the Indian army and BSF. Moreover, China, Myanmar and other external power may interfere into the matter.

In order to protect China, India already set up a largest Airport at Bagdugrai of Nokshalbari near the Shiliguri corridor and Banglabanda, near northern boundary point of Bangladesh. Moreover, India has established at least 25/30 military airports and air strips at Tejpur, Kolaikunta, Digbrughar, Lumding of Assam and many more Geostrategic

places. Thus, India has to keep reserve 3/4 lakhs of military Forces and a large number of air forces at the north-eastern part of the country.

The present study reveals- the SAARC and the ASEAN blocks have a similar cultural, linguistic, religious, colonial history, and heritages. Bangladesh can play a vital role bridging these two Regional Blocks

Bangladesh bears a vital geopolitical significance for its suitable geographical position between the SAARC and the ASEAN counties India, a big neighbor with nuclear power intentionally control on the Ganges river at Farakka, and it is planning to build up a dam on the Barak river at Tipaimukh in Monipur

The western developed declining countries e.g. USA has a decoying tend to control raising countries of south, south-east, and east Asian countries thorough NGOs aids, missionary activities, paid brokers, and their direct officials e.g. ambassadors and high commissions. It is assumed that the prospected cooperation based on “Bridge Concept” can make significant improvement of the unresolved issues existing between Bangladesh and it’s neighbors

Futures super power of the world, economic powerful communist State, China can get into the Bay of Bengal easily thorough Bangladesh— the gateway of Indian sub-continent. Otherwise, China do have to cross the Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and CHTs thorough its own province Unan about 700/800 km to reach the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh plays a vital role in the field of geopolitical, geo-economical and geo-Strategic significances in respects of peace, defense and security concern in this region.

Land-bridge between the SAARC and the ASEAN Blocks will increase a intra-regional relationship among the member countries that can contribute a lot in many way e.g. education, training, security, peace, living standard, healthcare, and social security in the regions.

The present research on geopolitical studies of Bangladesh reveals that it has an enormous significance of bridging the two regional blocks the SAARC counties (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Afghanistan), and the ASEAN

countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, and Philippines). Moreover, the geographical location of this country plays a vital role to link the South Asian countries (SAARC) to South-East Asian countries (ASEAN), specially the rising future power countries China, and India. Even though a few irritants and bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India being an adjacent neighbours, these countries can have bilateral discussions on confusing issues to minimize differences in various socio-economic, cultural, political, and security issues for harmonious co-existence and regional stability. Furthermore, Bangladesh and its neighbours can involve the regional blocks e.g. SAARC, CIRDAP, NAM and international forums e.g. UN, UNESCO to settle down the bilateral issues e.g. withdrawal the Ganges water at the Farakka, Tipaimukh dam proposal, South Talpotti, Asian Highway, corridor, the CHTs, boundary conflicts and killing civilians, enclaves, maritime boundary delimitation, and gas line proposal of Indian-Myanmar thorough Bangladesh.

Subsequently, the country has some significance geo-strategic point of view being a neighbor of India, a big neighbor with nuclear power surrounded by three sides (the west, the north, and the east) of the country, China, a potential future superpower only one hundred km far away from the northern point of this, and near to *Emerging Economic Tigers* –Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

In addition, other influential countries different political zones of the world also involves with the internal issues e.g. socio-economical, cultural, and political, and foreign affairs of Bangladesh directly or indirectly thorough their ambassadors and high commissions, foreign aids, the NGOs, and paid brokers which make the country more unstable, and it deteriorates the laws and orders, increasing price of goods and services; therefore, it hampers a normal development of the country.

The study shows that as a normal flow of globalization, from the ancient period the Portuguese, the French, the Dutch specially, the British colonialists had used the Meghna estuary of Bangladesh as a gateway of travelling the Indian Sub-continent for its suitable geographical facilities. Therefore, Chittagong seaport and its surrounding places were well known for its geographical location, natural dockyards on the banks of the Karnafulli river, natural beauty, hills and hillocks with green plants and creepers on it, and hostilities of the Bengalese by the ancient navigators, explorers, business men, and travelers.

Bangladesh is an independent country with a territorial and maritime boundary, and it has a land and maritime access to its neighbours and other parts of the world. Although this country maintains a friendly relationship with its big neighbor, India, but India purposively involves get going some issues e.g. withdrawal the Ganges water at the Farakka, Tipaimukh dam proposal, South Talpotti, Asian Highway, corridor, the CHTs, boundary conflicts and killing civilians, enclaves, maritime boundary delimitation, and gas line proposal of Indian-Myanmar that make a huge concern for this small developing country in south Asia. The withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka affects on biodiversity and ecosystem specially in the south-western parts of country as well as human environments in the entire country. Furthermore, boundary conflicts and killing civilians directly threats for about 100,000 inhabitants of the boundary areas between Bangladesh and India. In addition, South Talpotti, Asian Highway, corridor, CHTs, maritime boundary delimitation, and gas line proposal of Indian-Myanmar are the security concern of the country.

Bangladesh is the fourth largest Muslim country after Indonesia, Malaysia, and India which has a world's most densely population per sq km 932 persons. Therefore, this huge population is cheap and potential workers for the industrial productions, and themselves a big consumer markets.

Chittagong port is widely recognized in the international community as a paradigm of enlightened future. In its 44-year history, Chittagong port has maintained peace and stability among internal economic condition. It is today, Chittagong only leading port in Asia that provides huge sum of exportable revenue to Bangladesh where Asian countries and the world powers can discuss and consider problems about port security, political issues and military concerns and globalization.

For ensuring security of Bangladesh it is very much important to get the sovereignty of South Talpatti. By international laws and geographical state of the island we may easily ask for getting it as ours. But we need a strong leadership and strong foreign policies to stand before international community. People should to be more conscious and united in national interests. Intellects should research more for betterment of our country. We wish by the co-operation with the people of all sectors, government will be successful to ensure the security of Bangladesh.

The South Talpotti islands are still occupied by India (Rob, 1991). Moreover, Muhurir Char in the territory of Bangladesh is occupied by India (Azam, 1996). Ignoring the international law India withdraw the Ganges water at Farakka causes the environmental degradation in the south –western part of Bangladesh and destroying the Ecological balance in the regions (Abbas, 1982, Hossan, 1994). Furthermore, India sets up the fence around the boundary of Bangladesh raising the question of commencing the international laws of Boundary delimitation is inhumane and big brotherly behavior with the neighboring country.

Moreover, the BSF of India kidnaps and kills the farmers in the Border areas of Bangladesh. On the other hands, in the name of Operation Pushback push the Indian citizens into Bangladesh. Conversely, India helps and ensures shelters the *Chakma* extremist of Chittagong supplying arms and ammunitions to the peace committee of CHTs.

In regards of establishing the 'Indian Doctrine', it has dominating attitudes of India to the small developing nations e.g. Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh thorough the modern geopolitical ideas such as geo-strategic, geo-economies, and cultural aspects. This big brotherly behavior of India hampered the normal process of implementing the development plans of these countries. More than two decades ago India captured the independence of small neighbor country Sikkim and it has a tendency of domination the two landlocked neighbours, Nepal and Bhutan.

Bangladesh's most important and complex foreign relationships are with India and Pakistan. Bangladesh's relationship with India began on a position note because of India's assistance in the independence war and reconstruction. Throughout the years, relations between both countries have fluctuated for a number of reasons.

'Asian Highway' and 'Trans Asian Railway' are most critical issues in the politics and economics of Bangladesh. To set up of the Asian Highway project in Bangladesh will be felt in a big hole of geopolitical hidden trap. 'Asian Highway' will be a great threat for Bangladesh in respect of its sovereignty and national security. Considering the above findings of the present study Bangladesh must not be trapped our motherland in to the transit trick.

9.3: Recommendations

Although it's small landmass, Bangladesh, in terms of population, is the eighth largest country in the world, and it is a home for 150 million Muslims which plays a major role in international peace efforts and war against terrorism through contributing the second highest troops to the UN missions and introducing tough anti terrorism ordinance with a provision of death sentence for those convicted of terrorism. Therefore, Nicholas Burns, an undersecretary of state, mentioned Bangladesh as a unique example of democracy in the South Asia region, and Harry K. Thomas, a former ambassador of the USA considered Bangladesh as a model for democracy and tolerance.

In bilateral trade relations with its neighbors, India follows a policy of deriving maximum benefits thorough duty free access for its commodities and cornering other smaller regional countries, and it does not allow other countries having similar privilege imposing non-tariff barriers. Bangladesh is also a victim of the same exploitative Indian trade strategy, and it suffers from a trade deficit to the amount of \$2 billion with India which attributes to non removal of tariff and non tariff barriers on its exports.

Being a developing small, Bangladesh has to take some strategies e.g. using geographical advantages, forming alliances with strong friendly nations and being part of powerful international security forums to reduce its own strategic vulnerabilities that arise from asymmetry in power vis a vis India and protect its strategic, political and economic interests, and having a positional advantage Bangladesh can deals with Indian aggression in geostrategic and security vulnerabilities.

The government of Bangladesh should define responsibilities of different agencies to design, implement, and enforce strategies to deal with existing power inequalities with India, and it should also establish policies to review the current strategies to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses to ensure effectiveness to respond to current risks and to adjust to future risks. Bangladesh has to take effective geopolitical strategies to diminish India's strategic advantages over it through identifying India's security points.

As a South Asian potential country, Bangladesh can be a member of ASEAN, and it can have regional support to deal with the challenges between Bangladesh and India.

Bangladesh may have relationship with China to form a strategic alliance with this country to obtain security guarantee in the event of a military conflict with India. It can also work with China on matters that affect Chinese security interests based on mutual cooperation, interest, and utmost respect for each other's sovereignty.

Shiliguri is one of the most important geo-strategic points as a 'chicken neck' which takes a political decision deal with the transit rights to transport goods, military and industrial to its north east regions. Therefore, India must rely on Bangladesh for the stability and economic development of its seven sister's states.

India needs a substantial military power to tie the entire eastern command of it, and China or the insurgents in the north east regions. In addition, it can give Pakistan an opportunity to escalate the dispute over Kashmir into a major conflict on the western side.

A scientific and appropriate survey should be done to find out the profit and loss in implication of this project. A short-term and long term research should be done for making proper plan to achieve the expecting result from the Asian Highway. Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It is bordered by India on all sides expect for a small border with Myanmar to the far South-East and by the Bay of Bengal to the south.

Despite a few irritants relations, Bangladesh and India are being very close neighbors and part of many regional and international forums. Hence, both of these countries should take actions to minimize differences to advance understanding and cooperation in various socio-economic and security issues for advance co-existence and regional stability. The following sets of actions are recommended to achieve a peaceful bilateral relation.

First, it may promote regional cooperation to harness water resources for the benefit of agriculture and electricity production. Second, it can provide duty free access for each other's commodities to promote greater economic cooperation. Third, it may take prompt diplomatic actions to demarcate land and maritime borders in the spirit of justice, equity and good neighborliness. Fourth, both the countries can work closely to prevent sea piracy, illegal arms trade, and drug trafficking and human trafficking for the sake of regional security and stability, and it may create culture of non-interference in each other's internal affairs to promote trust, confidence, and cooperation

9.4: Implications

The present study on geopolitical, geo-economic, and geostrategic aspects on Bangladesh is a pioneer research in the field of applied political geography which can use be for plan of foreign relationship strategy with neighbours and other countries of the world to build up as its position as a self dependent, developed, democratic, and peaceful country in the world. It is a pioneer research in the field of applied political geography. For own existence, Bangladesh has to have its own safety policies. It can be a guide book of geopolitical study of the country. It can be used for a guideline for the researchers in geographical study in future. Moreover, for its own existence, Bangladesh has to have its own safety policies. Thus, this study can be guide book of geopolitical study of the country. Hence, the study can be used for a guideline for the researchers in geographical study in future.

9.5: Conclusion

The present geopolitical study of Bangladesh figures out the strength of geographical position, weaknesses to be a neighbor of India, opportunities of this land of opportunities, and threats for its security concern of neighbors, and exiting super power countries in the world. It reveals the influences of neighbors and other western countries on economy, culture, society, and politics. In consideration of the analysis, it can state that self help is the best help for enhancing the entire development of the country. It also include that this small country has a many opportunities, resources, and positional facilities. We sacrificed numerous valuable lives, resources, and honors of the inhabitants for having the sovereignty. Therefore, it's our moral duty to uphold the great sacrifices of the patriotic *shahids*, and make further plan to build up a '*Soner Bangla*' in this land of opportunities.

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APPENDIX - I

**SOME INFORMATION OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ASEAN, AND
SAARC COUNTRIES**

Table-1.1: Estimates of World Population (in Million)

Year	World Population
8000 BC	5
14 AD	266
350 AD	254
600 AD	237
800 AD	267
1000 AD	280
1200 AD	384
1500 AD	427
1750 AD	694
1800 AD	919
1900 AD	1571
1920 AD	1,811
1930 AD	2,070
1940 AD	2,295
1950 AD	2,513
1960 AD	3,027
1970	3,678
1980 Ad	4,415
1990 AD	5,275
1995 AD	5,733
2000 AD	6,199
2020	8,000 (Est.)

Source: UNO Publications, ST/ESA/SER, R/33, Demo Year Book.

Table -1.2: Living Standard of Developed countries, SAARC and ASEAN Countries regarding the Per capita Income

Ranks	Name of Country	Per Capita Income \$
1	Luxembourg	70,290
2	Norway	54,460
3	Switzerland	48,380
4	Denmark	44,670
5	Ireland	44,640
6	Iceland	41,890
7	United States	39,880
8	Sweden	38,520
9	Japan	36,180
10	Austria	35,770
11	Finland	35,560
12	Netherlands, The	35,560
13	United Kingdom	35,490
14	France	33,900
15	Belgium	33,810
16	Germany	33,210
17	Australia	31,690
18	Canada	30,590
33	Brunei	15,060
60	Malaysia	4,750
68	Russia	4,040
85	Thailand	2,540
88	Iran	2,440
91	Maldives	2,340
107	China	1,490
113	Indonesia	1,180
119	Philippines	1,040
121	Sri Lanka	1,030
128	Bhutan	750
133	India	640
135	Pakistan	630
142	Vietnam	550
150	Laos	420
154	Bangladesh	410
160	Cambodia	350
167	Nepal	250
175	Afghanistan	160

Source: Microsoft Encarta, 2007.

Table-1.3-a: Colonial Status of the world's Countries

Name of the country	Year of Sovereign	Colonial Status
Paraguay	1811	Spain
Argentina	1816	
Chile	1818	
Colombia	1819	
Mexico	1821	
Guatemala	1821	
Elsa Vidor	1821	
Honduras	1821	
Nicaragua	1821	
Coast Rica	1821	
Venezuela	1821	
Peru	1824	
Bolivia	1825	
Uruguay	1825	
Ecuador	1830	
Cuba		
Dominican Republic	1865	
Equator Ginny	1968	
United Kingdom		England, Wales, Scotland
United Kingdom		Britain, Ireland
USA	1776	Britain
Australia	1901	
Afghanistan	1919	
Iran	1925	
Canada	1931	
Saudi Arabia	1932	
Iraq	1932	
Egypt	1936	
Jordan	1946	
India	1947	
Pakistan	1947	
Nepal	1869-1947	
Myanmar	1948	
Sri Lanka	1948	
Israel	1948	
Bhutan	1949	
Oman	1951	

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Table-1.3-b: Colonial Status of the world's Countries

Name of the country	Year of Sovereign	Colonial Status
Ghana	1957	Britain
Nigeria	1960	
Kuwait	1961	
Tanzania	1961	
Seychelles	1961	
Uganda	1962	
Jamaica	1962	
Trinidad and Tobago	1962	
Kenya	1963	
Gambia	1963	
Malta	1964	
Malabo	1964	
Maldives	1965	
Gambia	1965	
Ghana	1966	
Botswana	1966	
Lesotho	1966	
Swaziland	1968	
Tonga	1970	
Fiji	1970	
Bahrain	1971	
United Arab Emirates	1971	
Qatar	1971	
Bangladesh	1971	
Bahamas Islands	1973	Britain
Granada	1974	
Dominica	1978	
Tuvalu	1978	
Solomon Islands	1978	
Saint Lucia	1979	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1979	
Zimbabwe	1980	
Antigua and Barbuda	1981	
Brunei	1984	
Netherlands	1830	

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Table-1.3-c: Colonial Status of the world's Countries

Name of the country	Year of Sovereign	Colonial Status
Belgium	1830	Netherlands
Luxemburg	1839	
Surinam	1975	
France	1789-1792	
Haiti	1804	France
Lebanon	1941	
Syria	1946	
Laos	1949	
Cambodia	1953	
Vietnam	1954	
Morocco	1956	China → France
Ginny	1958	France
Mauritania	1960	
Niger	1960	
Mali	1960	
Madagascar	1960	
Morasses		
Senegal	1960	
Ivory Coast	1960	
Burkina	1960	
Togo	1960	
Benin	1960	
Cameroon	1960	
Central Africa Republic	1960	
Chad	1960	
Gabon	1960	
Congo	1960	
West Sahara	1960	
Algeria	1962	France
Tunisia	1962	
Comoros	1975	
Djibouti	1977	
Vanuatu	1980	France + Britain
Panama	1903	Colombia
Papua New Ginny	1975	Australia
Denmark	905 A.D.	
Sweden	1523	
Finland	1817-1917	Sweden → Russia
Norway	1905	

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Table-1.3-d: Colonial Status of the world's Countries

Name of the country	Year of Sovereign	Colonial Status
Austria	1918	
Micronesia	1986	United Administration
Germany	1871	
Lichtenstein	1866	Garman Confederation
Namibia	1915	Germany→South Africa(1915-1990)
South Africa	1961	
Albania		
Sudan	1956	
Bulgaria		
Monaco	1861	
Andréa	1278	
Sun Marino	1631	
Nauru	1968	
Marshal Islands	1986	
West Samoa	1962	
Kiribati	1979	
Palau		
Thailand		Never be under colonial state
Ethiopia	03 A.D	
Liberia	1847	
Eritrea	1991	Ethiopia
Vatican City		
Yemen		
France Goanna		
Singapore	1965	Malaysia
Filipinas	1946	USA
South Korea	1948	
Indonesia	1949	
Portugal	1910	
Brazil	1822	Portugal

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Table-1.3-e: Colonial Status of the world's Countries

Name of the country	Year of Sovereign	Colonial Status
Sao Tome and Principe	1975	Portugal
Mozambique	1975	
Angola	1975	
Zaire	1960	Belgium
Rwanda	1962	
Burundi	1962	
Italy	1948	Italy
Libya	1951	
Somalia	1960	
Japan	1952	Ottoman Emperors
Rumania	1881	
Greece	1829	
China	1911	
Swaziland	1648	Roman Emperors
Mongolia	1924	China
North Korea	1948	Russia
Poland	1980	Soviet Union
Russian Federal	1991	
Kyrgyzstan	1991	
Kazakhstan	1991	
Uzbekistan	1991	
Tajikistan	1991	
Turkmenistan	1991	
Belarus	1991	
Estonia	1991	
Latvia	1991	
Lithonia	1991	
Crosio	1992	Czechoslovakia
Slovenia	1992	
Montenegro	1992	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1992	
Macedonia	1992	
Serbia	1992	

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Table-1.4: Arms Expenditure, Arms Forces, Defenseless and Arms Business of Developed Countries, ASEAN, and SAARC

Name of Countries	Arms Expenditure US\$	Arms Forces (%)	Refugee	Arms Business in US\$	
				Export	Import
United States	272200	1913.8	103700	14300	725
Russia	72000	152.0	14500	18400	1000
France	47700	409.0	29400	1890	140
Germany	42800	339.9	536000		
Italy	20400	328.7	19100	390	270
United Kingdom	3500	236.9	24600	725	625
China	12025	293.0	12500	3100	270
India	8000	1145.0	378000		3200
Indonesia	2700	274.4	15600		130
Afghanistan	245	45.0	52000		
Bangladesh	481	115.5	245300		80
Brunei					
Bhutan					
Cambodia	85	88.5	10000		240
Laos	105	37.0	12000		150
Malaysia	2400	114.5	16700		30
Myanmar	135	286.0	11500		30
Philippines	1000	106.5	5600		60
Singapore	3900	53.9	100	10	310
Nepal	36	35.0	89400		
Pakistan	3100	587.0	1577000	10	340
Maldives					
Sri Lanka	640	125.3	2540		20
Thailand	4040	259.0	255500		525

Source: World Almanac, 2012.

Table -1.5: Military Expenditure of Powerful States, ASEAN and SAARC Countries

Countries	Military Expenditures (USD)	Year
United States	711,000,000,000	2009
European Union	311,920,000,000	2007
France	61,571,330,000	2008-2009
Russia	50,000,000,000	2009
Japan	48,860,000,000	2008
Germany	45,930,000,000	2008
Italy	40,060,000,000	2008
India	26,500,000,000	2008-2009
Australia	24,802,000,000	2008
Pakistan	7,800,000,000	2008
Singapore	7,129,400,000	2007
Indonesia	4,740,000,000	2008
Colombia	3,300,000,000	2005
Vietnam	3,200,000,000	2005
Thailand	1,775,000,000	NA
Malaysia	1,690,000,000	NA
Philippines	1,348,000,000	2007
Bangladesh	836,900,000	2007
Sri Lanka	606,200,000	2005
Brunei	290,700,000	2004
Afghanistan	122,400,000	2005
Cambodia	112,000,000	NA
Nepal	104,900,000	2005
Maldives	45,070,000	2005
Burma	NA	NA
Laos	11,040,000	2005
Bhutan	8,281,000	2005

Source: Source: World Almanac, 2009.

Appendix II

Table -1.6: Living Standard of Developed, SAARC and ASEAN countries Regarding Per Capita Income

Ranks	Name of Country	Per Capita Income \$
1	Luxembourg	70,290
2	Norway	54,460
3	Switzerland	48,380
4	Denmark	44,670
5	Ireland	44,640
6	Iceland	41,890
7	United States	39,880
8	Sweden	38,520
9	Japan	36,180
10	Austria	35,770
11	Finland	35,560
13	United Kingdom	35,490
14	France	33,900
16	Germany	33,210
17	Australia	31,690
18	Canada	30,590
19	Italy	29,140
33	Brunei	15,060
60	Malaysia	4,750
68	Russia	4,040
85	Thailand	2,540
91	Maldives	2,340
107	China	1,490
113	Indonesia	1,180
119	Philippines	1,040
121	Sri Lanka	1,030
128	Bhutan	750
133	India	640
135	Pakistan	630
142	Vietnam	550
150	Laos	420
154	Bangladesh	410
160	Cambodia	350
167	Nepal	250
175	Afghanistan	160

Source: Microsoft Encarta, 2007.

Table 1.7-a: Changes of World Power

Power Dealing Countries	Colonial Status and Year of Sovereignty/ Foundation
England, Wales, Scotland	United Kingdom(1707)
Britain, Ireland	United Kingdom(1801)
Netherlands	Belgium(1830), Luxemburg(1839),Surinam(1975)
Britain (1776-1984)	USA(1776), Netherlands (1830), Australia (1901), Afghanistan(1919), Iran(1925), Canada (1931), Saudi Arabia(1932), Iraq(1932), Egypt (1936), Jordan(1946), India(1947), Pakistan(1947), Nepal(1869-1947), Myanmar(1948), Sri Lanka(1948), Israel(1948), Bhutan(1949), Oman (1951), Ghana (1957), Nigeria (1960), Kuwait(1961), Tanzania(1961), Senegal (1961), Uganda (1962), Jamaica(1962), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Kenya (1963), Gambia (1963), Malta(1964), Malabo (1964), Maldives(1965),Gambia(1965), Goanna(1966), Botswana (1966), Lesotho (1966), Swaziland (1968), Tonga(1970), Fiji(1970), Bahrain (1971), United Arab Emirates(1971), Qatar(1971), Bangladesh(1971), Bahamas Islands (1973), Granada(1974), Dominica(1978), Tuvalu(1978), Solomon Islands(1978), Sent Lucia(1979), Sent Vincent and Granada Sent (1979), Zimbabwe (1980), Antigua and Bermuda (1981), Brunei (1984)
France (1789-1977)	France (1789-1792), Haiti(1804), Lebanon(1941), Syria(1946), Laos (1949), Cambodia(1953) Morocco(1956), Guinea(1958), Mauritania(1960), Niger(1960), Mali(1960), Madagascar Morasses (1960), Senegal (1960), Ivory Coast(1960), Burkina(1960), Togo(1960), Benin(1960), Cameroon (1960), Central Africa Republic(1960), Chad(1960),Gabon (1960),Congo (1960), West Sahara(1960), Algeria(1962), Tunisia(1962), Comoros (1975), Djibouti(1977)
France –(China)	Vietnam(1954)
France + Britain	Vanuatu(1980)
Spain (1811-1968)	Paraguay(1811), Argentina(1816), Chile(1818), Colombia(1819), Mexico(1821), Guatemala(1821), El Salvador (1821), Honduras(1821), Nicaragua(1821), Costa Rica(1821), Venezuela(1821), Peru(1824), Bolivia(1825),Uruguay (1825), Ecuador(1830), Cuba Dominican Republic(1865), Equator Guinea(1968)
Ottoman Emperors (1829-1952)	Greece (1829), Rumania(1881), China(1911), Japan(1952)
Colombia	Panama(1903)
Australia	Papua New Guinea (1975)
Denmark	905 A.D.
Sweden	1523
Sweden→ Russia	Finland(1817-1917)
Norway	1905
Austria	1918

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Table 1.7-b: Changes of World Power

Power Dealing Countries	Colonial Status and Year of Sovereignty/ Foundation
United Administration	Micronesia(1986)
Garman Confederation	187, Lichtenstein(1866)
Germany→South Africa (1915-1990)	Namibia 1915
South Africa	1961
Albania	
Sudan	1956
Bulgaria	
Monaco	1861
Andréa	1278
Sun Marino	1631
Nauru	1968
Marshal Islands	1986
West Samoa	1962
Kiribati	1979
Palau	
Thailand	Never be under colonial state
Ethiopia	03 A.D(Never be under colonial state)
Liberia	1847
Ethiopia	Eritrea 1991
Vatican City	
Yemen	
France Goanna	
Singapore	1965
USA	Filipinas(1946), South Korea(1948)
Indonesia	1949
Portugal (1910-1975)	1910, Brazil(1822), Sao Tome and Principe(1975), Mozambique (1975), Angola(1975)
Belgium	Zaire (1960), Rwanda(1962), Burundi(1962)
Italy	1948, Libya (1951), Somalia(1960)
Roman Emperors	Swaziland(1648)
China	Mongolia(1924)
Russia-Soviet Union (1948-1991)	North Korea(1948), Poland(1980), Russian Federal(1991), Kyrgyzstan (1991), Kazakhstan(1991), Uzbekistan(1991), Tajikistan(1991), Turkmenistan (1991), Belarus(1991), Estonia (1991), Latvia (1991), Lithonia(1991)
Czechoslovakia	Crosio (1992), Slovenia(1992), Montenegro (1992), Bosnia-Herzegovina(1992), Macedonia(1992), Serbia(1992)

Source: World Almanac, 2013.

Appendix III

Table-1.8: Bilateral Trade shares of four SAARC Countries: 2000-2005 (%)

Exports										
	Bangladesh		India		Pakistan		Sri Lanka		SARRC	
	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005
Bangladesh	-	-	1.15	1.35	0.60	0.75	0.09	0.08	1.90	2.20
India	2.30	1.60	-	-	0.45	0.65	1.75	1.95	5.45	5.25
Pakistan	1.75	1.45	1.10	2.10	-	-	1.02	0.95	3.90	4.55
Sri Lanka	0.22	0.24	5.35	9.05	0.70	0.70	-	-	7.35	10.35
SARRC	1.80	1.40	0.90	0.80	0.45	0.60	1.45	1.65	4.70	4.50

Source: United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics, 2007.

Table-1.9: Bilateral Trade shares of four SAARC countries: 2000- 2005 (%)

Imports										
	Bangladesh		India		Pakistan		Sri Lanka		SARRC	
	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005	2000-04	2005
Bangladesh	-	-	14.55	12.02	1.45	1.7	0.10	0.10	16.20	13.85
India	0.09	0.08	-	-	0.10	0.12	0.35	0.40	0.90	0.95
Pakistan	0.35	0.25	3.05	2.30	-	-	0.35	0.25	3.80	2.85
Sri Lanka	0.09	0.09	18.85	17.30	1.25	1.40	-	-	20.55	19.05
SARRC	0.10	0.10	3.35	2.35	0.30	0.25	0.40	0.35	4.20	3.10

Source: United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics, 2007.

Table-1.10: Religion Status in ASEAN and SAARC Countries

SAARC	Believers
Afghanistan	Sunni Muslim 80%, Shia Muslim 19%, other 1%
Bangladesh	Muslim 89.5%, Hindu 9.6%, other 0.9% (2004)
Bhutan	Lamaistic Buddhist 75%, Indian- and Nepalese-influenced Hinduism 25%
India	Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)
Pakistan	Muslim 95% (Sunni 75%, Shia 20%), other (includes Christian and Hindu) 5%
Nepal	Hindu 80.6%, Buddhist 10.7%, Muslim 4.2%, Kirant 3.6%, other 0.9% (2001 census)
Sri Lanka	Buddhist 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, unspecified 10% (2001 census provisional data)
Maldives	Sunni Muslim
ASEAN	Believers
Burma	Buddhist 89%, Christian 4% (Baptist 3%, Roman Catholic 1%), Muslim 4%, animist 1%, other 2%
Brunei	Muslim (official) 67%, Buddhist 13%, Christian 10%, other (includes indigenous beliefs) 10%
Cambodia	Buddhist 96.4%, Muslim 2.1%, other 1.3%, unspecified 0.2% (1998 census)
Indonesia	Muslim 86.1%, Protestant 5.7%, Roman Catholic 3%, Hindu 1.8%, other or unspecified 3.4% (2000 census)
Laos	Buddhist 67%, Christian 1.5%, other and unspecified 31.5% (2005 census)
Malaysia	Muslim 60.4%, Buddhist 19.2%, Christian 9.1%, Hindu 6.3%, Confucianism, Taoism, other traditional Chinese religions 2.6%, other or unknown 1.5%, none 0.8% (2000 census)
Philippines	Roman Catholic 80.9%, Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo 2.3%, Aglipayan 2%, other Christian 4.5%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.6%, none 0.1% (2000 census)
Singapore	Buddhist 42.5%, Muslim 14.9%, Taoist 8.5%, Hindu 4%, Catholic 4.8%, other Christian 9.8%, other 0.7%, none 14.8% (2000 census)
Thailand	Buddhist 94.6%, Muslim 4.6%, Christian 0.7%, other 0.1% (2000 census)
Vietnam	Buddhist 9.3%, Catholic 6.7%, Hoa Hao 1.5%, Cao Dai 1.1%, Protestant 0.5%, Muslim 0.1%, none 80.8% (1999 census)

Source: World Almanac, 2013.