



Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman has just retired from the Bangladesh government service and has been the Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Offices and other International Organizations in Geneva from October 2022 to May 2024.

Prior to this appointment, he was Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and a few countries in the South Pacific from 2018-2022, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar from 2014-2017 and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka from 2012-2014.

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A. Professional experience

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

**** Bangladesh Permanent Representative, Geneva (October, 2022 to May, 2024)**

~ Led and were part of Bangladesh delegations to numerous multilateral conferences and meetings of UN Specialized agencies and International Organisations like ILO (International Labour Conference, 2022 and various meetings of the ILO Governing Body, Article 26 case against Bangladesh, steered election of Bangladesh as a regular member of the Governing Body without a competition and led creation of a long-term rotational arrangement for the Central Asian sub-region), WHO (including negotiations on the review of the International Health Regulations and the Pandemic Treaty), UNHCR (including the Global Forum for the Refugees), IOM (including the Global Forum for Migration), WIPO (post-graduation package for Bangladesh), UNCTAD, UN LDC V Summit (March, 2023)

~ Meetings of Human Rights Council, Working Groups of HRC, interacted with Special Procedure Mandate Holders, smooth conduct of the Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh, November 2023

~ 13th Ministerial Conference of WTO and meetings of the General Council, DSB and various other bodies of WTO, lead negotiator for the post-graduation package for the graduating LDCs.

~ Organised the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to Geneva (June, 2023)

~ Meetings of the Conference on Disarmament

~ Bilateral relations with Switzerland and the Holy See

**** Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund- GCERF Board member (2022-2024)**

**** Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji (February, 2018 to October, 2022)**

~ All functions of the High Commissioner

~ Improvement in political understanding and recognition of Bangladesh as a key partner country for Australia in South Asia

~ Trade related activities (Trade Conference in Sydney, November 2019, negotiation on Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement and meeting of the Joint Working Group formed under it, bilateral trade increased more than 2 times in the period)

~ Education and skill related activities (commenced review of the Country Education Profile of Bangladesh that has led to recognition of many educational institutions of Bangladesh in Australia)

~ Managed a fast and efficient consular service

~ Organised approval processes for the construction of the Chancery project for the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra

~ Organised the visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister to Sydney (April, 2018)

~ Commencing of works of Bangladesh Consulate General, Sydney

**** Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar (August, 2014 to January, 2028)**

~ All functions of the Ambassador

~ Engaged with the Rakhine Advisory Commission (popularly known as the Kofi Annan Commission) and effectively countered the Myanmar narrative of Rohingya people as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

~ Managed the initial phases of the Rohingya refugee crisis of 2016-17 (principal drafter and negotiator of the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State and its two follow up instruments, October – December 2017)

**** Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka (September, 2012 to August, 2014)**

~ All functions of the High Commissioner

- ~ Conclusion of an MoU on supply of pharmaceuticals to Sri Lanka
- ~ Commenced initial discussion on a possible FTA with Sri Lanka and direct transport connectivity between Chittagong and Colombo port.
- ~ Organised visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister to Colombo (November, 2013)

**** Director General, Economic Affairs & Director General, SAARC, MoFA (February, 2010 to August, 2012)**

- ~ Organised the Climate Vulnerable Forum (Dhaka, 2011)
- ~ Organized the Colombo Process Ministerial Meeting (Dhaka, April 2011)
- ~ Organised World Marketing Summit (Dhaka, 2012), International Conference on Autism (July, 2011)
- ~ Attended UNGA sessions in 2010 and 2011, Rio+20 Conference (June, 2012), COP 17 of UNFCCC, UNCTAD XIII, UN LDC-IV Summit
- ~ Negotiation on TICFA with the US
- ~ All matters related to SAARC and BIMSTEC process
- ~ 16th SAARC Summit, April 2010 and Meetings of Council of Ministers, Standing Committees and Programming Committees
- ~ Various SAARC Ministerial Meetings
- ~ Negotiations on the establishment of the South Asian University
- ~ Negotiations for the permanent seat of BIMSTEC Secretariat and scale of assessment for the BIMSTEC members

**** Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission, Islamabad**

- ~ All functions of the DHC, also functioned as Acting High Commissioner for a few months.
- ~ All aspects of bilateral political relations (handled sensitive relations when new Governments took over both in Islamabad and in Dhaka)
- ~ Trade relations with Pakistan; developed template for export of jute bags to Pakistan
- ~ Repatriation of illegal entrants and detained/ jailed persons

**** Director, SAARC Secretariat (September 2004 to January 2008)**

- ~ All functions of Director (Agriculture, Rural Development and Poverty alleviation)
- ~ Helped organize 13th SAARC Summit (Dhaka, November 2005) and 14th Summit (Delhi, April 2007)
- ~ Various meetings of the SAARC Council of Ministers, Standing Committees and Programming Committee
- ~ Helped organize Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (Islamabad, December 2006) and Finance Ministers' meeting

- ~ Conceptualised the creation of a regional fund for SAARC- SAARC Developed Fund and remained deeply associated with its articulation and operationalization
- ~ SAARC's relations/ collaboration with external entities like ADB, FAO, and WB
- ~ Deeply associated with the creation of the SAARC Food Bank
- ~ Arranged publishing of the SAARC Regional Poverty Profiles (2004, 2005 and 2006)
- ~ Serviced Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation (ISACPA)
- ~ Transformation of SAARC Agriculture Information Centre into SAARC Agriculture Centre

**** Director Foreign Minister's Office (February, 2002 to August, 2004)**

- ~ All functions of the Chef the Cabinet
- ~ All substantive aspects of the Office of the Foreign Minister including dealing with external entities
- ~ Visits of the Foreign Minister abroad
- ~ Public diplomacy activities, media engagement and press releases of the Foreign Minister
- ~ Also officiated as the Private Secretary for the Foreign Minister for over a year

**** First Secretary/ Counsellor, Bangladesh Permanent Mission in Geneva (August, 1999 to January, 2002)**

- ~ United Nations Compensation Commission (involved in the resolution of suspended payments to some recipient countries including Bangladesh)
- ~ Health issues and WHO
- ~ Conference on Disarmament and CCW
- ~ IOM, UNHCR and humanitarian issues, Human Rights Commission and its Sub-Commission
- ~ UNODC (Vienna)
- ~ Functions of the Head of Chancery
- ~ Function as Consul, including liaison with authorities in Berne and Geneva

**** Second/ First Secretary, Bangladesh High Commission, (July 1996- August 1999)**

- ~ Administration of the High Commission, under the guidance of the Head of Chancery
- ~ Political works (domestic developments, general and state elections in India, illegal immigration)
- ~ Assist the Commercial Counsellor

~ Public/ cultural diplomacy

**** Assistant Secretary, MOFA (January 1991 to July 1995)**

~ Economic Affairs (trade and matters related to Marrakesh Agreement, migration, social, environmental issues, follow up of the Rio Summit, 1992 etc.)

~ Equipment (All purchases of Bangladesh Missions abroad in particular replacement of cars)

~ Functions as desk officer of the Far East Section, dealing with bilateral relations.

Professional experience in academia

Resource person

~ Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy

~ Bangladesh National Defence College

~ North South University (South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance, SIPG)

Lecturer of Civil Engineering at the Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Dhaka
(December 1988 to January 1991)

B.

Education

Masters in Business Administration

1994

Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka

BSc in Civil Engineering

1988

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Higher Secondary Certificate

1982

Rajshahi Cadet College

(second in combined merit

list)

Attended courses at NESAC Centre and National Defence University, Washington DC
in 2003 and 2014.

Attended courses at BPATC and Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy

C. Publications

~ *Bangladesh -Myanmar relations and resolution of Rohingya Crisis: A Foreign Policy perspective*

Co-authored an article at the Book published by Routledge India, 25 August 2023

The Displaced Rohingyas: A Tale of a Vulnerable Community

~ *Targeted annihilation of Rohingya: the “Other” in Myanmar*

Authored an article for the *Book Rohingya : Genocide in Rakhine*

Published by the Diplomatic Correspondents of Bangladesh, 2019

D. Professional interests

~ Domestic politics of South Asian countries and geopolitics of South Asia

~ Multilateralism in South Asia and Southeast Asia

~ Myanmar and the Rohingya crisis

~ Nationalism in the neighbourhood of Bangladesh

~ Illegal immigration debate in Assam and Myanmar

~ Regional integration in Asia, SAARC and BIMSTEC region

~ WTO and multilateral trade

~ Security challenges and peace in the Indian Ocean region

~ Strategic competition in the South Pacific

E. References

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