

IMPACT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE ON NATIONAL SECURITY OF BANGLADESH

Brigadier General Mohammad Siddiqui Alam Sikder, ndc, psc

INTRODUCTION

The term ‘governance’ and ‘good governance’ are being increasingly used in the development literatures. Governance describes the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Governance is broader notion than government, state and regime and is the interaction between formal institutions and civil society.¹ In general terms, governance denotes “how people are ruled, how the affairs of the state are administered and regulated as well as a nation’s system of politics and how these function in relation to public administration and law”.²

Since her inception Bangladesh has experienced a traumatic journey in the arena of governance. In spite of countable achievements in ensuring better governance, Bangladesh is often criticized as a country that falls short of good governance. Many of the indicators of good governance do not qualify to the world standard in present day Bangladesh. During 1990s and onward Bangladesh has notably improved both its economic performance and human development indicators. Unfortunately, all such achievements and successes have largely faded away because of the “poor governance” in the broader politico-administrative system and process.³ There is a growing concern regarding how far the economic growth momentum can withstand a ‘weakening’ of the institutions of political governance.⁴

There is a relationship between good governance and effective national security. When a country is well governed, the fear of insecurity dissipates because the government has no reason to be afraid of insurrection or any violent opposition. Good governance entails a political system in which the leadership is responsive, transparent and accountable to the citizens. It entails respect for the constitution and the rule of law by all. Good governance requires a fair distribution of the national wealth so that all citizens, groups, states, and regions of the country benefit. An imbalance in the distribution of the national wealth tends to lead to insecurity because those who are left out are likely to react in a manner that threatens the national security. As such, good governance is definitely a major pre-requisite to ensure national security of Bangladesh.

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1. Aminuzzaman, 2012.
 2. Mills and Serageldin, 1991.
 3. Aminuzzaman, 2006
 4. Ahluwalia and Mahmud, 2004

CONCEPT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Good Governance

Good governance is a normative concept that denotes some ‘ideal type’ governance process and outcome.⁵ Due to this normative orientation, there is a tendency in the literature to define good governance with some common dominant concepts like accountability, transparency, efficiency, fairness, equity and justice.⁶ According to a general concept of governance, only relatively better governance may determine the merit of a country. Good governance remains as the perpetual idea under almost all circumstances. Good governance is distinctly characterized by participation, accountability, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus oriented, equity and inclusiveness and effectiveness. The discussion of good governance naturally also implies that there is failure of governance or bad governance. The act of omissions and commissions that provokes corruption, violation of human rights, violence, etc. that may characterize any government anywhere be it in a developed or a developing country, should be seen as governance failure or bad governance.

Good governance depends on a whole range of institutions and their capacity to exhibit a number of traits in order to play the desirable role. In this sense, good governance seems herculean job, almost impossible to achieve in a resource scarce situation. Grindle attempted to resolve this dilemma by proposing that it is sufficient for a country to strive for a minimum level of good governance that is sufficient to maintain the momentum of growth of a country within its affordable resources.⁷ He termed this phenomenon as ‘good enough governance’. Given the severe resource constraint in Bangladesh, this paper views the state of governance from ‘good enough governance’ perspective to circumscribe our discussion on a few critical governance institutions and traits.

Concept of National Security

The concept of national security developed mostly in the United States of America after World War II. Initially focusing on military might, it now encompasses a broad range of facets, all of which impinge on the non military or economic security of the nation and the values espoused by the national society. National security is the collective security aspiration of the citizens. Conventionally, national security is defined as the immunity of a nation from

5. Simionis, 2004.

6. Mr. Guido Bertucci, International Conference on Building Partnership for Good Governance. New York, 2000.

7. Grindle, M.S., 2007. “Good Enough Governance Revisited”, Development Policy Review, 25 (5), Pp. 553-574

external aggression. The state ensures national security by having a military force capable of defending its territorial boundary and ensuring the exercise of sovereign authority. Today national security means not only immunity against foreign aggression, it also includes an absence of hunger and disease, poverty and illiteracy. Political leaders and policy makers have to carefully balance the country's defence and social needs. This has always been a difficult task. It is an irony that the developing countries spend greater percentage of their wealth on the military than the developed countries.

Inter-relationship between Good Governance and National Security

Although, most definitions confine good governance to politics and sociology, in reality, good governance is also linked inextricably with national security. Security is inseparable from good governance, since good governance helps prevent conflict and ensure peace. The link had been spelt out more than 200 years ago by Kant when he said, "People who feel secure and free, governed by the rule of law and not of men, are much less likely to go to war with each other - either within or across borders – than those who don't".⁸ It needs little emphasis that if governance relates to directing the proper utilisation of resources and the state institutions for the benefit of the people, anything that weakens the process of governance will lead to instability and flux and which would consequently affect national security.

Experts opine that improvements in good governance are closely linked with security and stability. If the goals of good government are the consolidation of political structures and the establishment of legitimate democratic institutions such as the promotion of constitutionality, power-sharing and human rights, a clear legal instrument which enables development of the private economic sector and the fight against corruption, attaining this particular level of governance would engender peace. This is how the OECD sees the link. It says, "Security is important for improved governance. Inappropriate security structures and mechanisms can contribute to weak governance and to instability and violent conflict, which impact negatively on poverty reduction". It therefore follows that insecurity or lack of peace is the result of violence stemming from social or political instability. If there is a causal link between instability and violence which adversely affect good governance then perhaps one could also suggest that there is a reverse causality, in that, lack of good governance engenders violence and thereby instability and insecurity. Therefore, suffice it to say that good governance = good government = stability and security, and the reverse is true too.⁹

8. Kant, in "Perpetual Peace" quoted in «Peace, Security and Good Governance», ibid

9. Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan (ret'd), 'Good Governance and National Security' a concept paper presented in BIIS

GOVERNANCE IN BANGLADESH : THE PRESENT SITUATION

Bangladesh has shown wonderful progress in achieving a sustained economic growth for last one decade. During the recent world economic recession, Bangladesh has displayed remarkable resilience in sustaining the economic shock. The huge potential of our economy is likely to graduate us to a status of 'Middle Income Country' by 2021. Bangladesh has also notably improved in all the 'Human Development Indexes' (HDIs). But all these successes are likely to be faded away if we fail to ensure good governance in the country. We still bear the image of a country with poor governance.

Political Governance in Bangladesh

Democracy as an institution is not very old and still in a developing stage in Bangladesh. Since her independence, Bangladesh has witnessed several political turmoil including assassination of two presidents, two army coups and two major political movements that caused the downfall of the political regimes. As a matter of fact, Bangladesh polity in the last forty years oscillated between autocracy and democratic rule. Since 1971 till date, Bangladesh is experiencing eight major regimes having a variety of political system with different styles of governance. It is interesting to note that with the changes in regime, all new governments deliberately opted to bring about modifications, alteration or abolishment of policies, both state and public.

Bangladesh, very unfortunately is experiencing a culture of confrontational politics for last twenty one years of democratic regimes. The 1996, 2001 and 2008 elections were preceded by a lengthy Opposition boycott of the Parliament. The Opposition was engaged in prolonged violent street agitation causing considerable damage to the economy and the entire political system. Political culture is characterized by regular confrontation and intolerance. Political parties are organizationally weak and poor agents of democratic transformation.¹⁰ They even lack democracy within the parties. Party programs or ideologies seldom mobilize voters during elections. Both the major parties bank on populist approach of symbolism and sentiments as the major instruments for mobilizing voters. A favourite weapon to harass a sitting government is calling a HARTAL, a general strike which paralyses most economic activities, especially transport, sometimes for days. It is widely recognized that the prevailing state of confrontational politics is having an adverse effect on the state of governance and thereby undermining development prospects of Bangladesh.

10. Hasanuzzaman, 1998.

Corruption in Different Sectors

Bangladesh was ranked as the “number one corrupt country” in the world five times consecutively by the Transparency International of Bangladesh (TIB) in the past, although the situation has improved to some extent at present. At this moment Bangladesh is ranking at 13th from the bottom. According to the report of TIB, in 2003, 4.7 percent of GDP was drained away due to corruption.¹¹ Table-2 shows that corruption in the public organization is severe whereas the quality of service is poor.

Table 1: Public Corruption Score Card		
Agencies	Corruption Ratings (Evaluation)	
	HH	Ent.
Thana Complaint Office	4.5	8.6
Traffic Police	6.1	8.8
Police Excluding Traffic Police	6.6	8.9
Public Registry (ID, Passport)	5.7	8.6
Anti Corruption Bureau	8.1	8.7
HH : House hold, Ent : Entrepreneur, 0 = Low, 10 = High		
<i>Source: Bangladesh: Improving Governance for Reducing Poverty, Report of World Bank, p-6, November 2002.</i>		

Weak Judiciary

Weak judicial system has led to weak law enforcement, which stands as a major obstacle to good governance. A survey report of the WB shows that 55 percent of respondents are now dissatisfied with present situation and they are under confident on present judicial system due to corruption.¹² The IGS (2009) reveals that the widespread perception that those with political and economic influence are prepared to interfere with the independence of the courts in Bangladesh.

11. Dr Rahman, Mizanur, Op Cit, p.95

12. Report of World Bank, November 2002 : Bangladesh : Improving Governance for Reducing Poverty, P.10,

Administrative Limitations

A sound system of public administration is the propelling force for good governance. A recent report of the Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC) has described the present system as “rigid, unresponsive, inefficient and ineffective, pre-occupied with process rather than results”.¹³ The IGS shows that, people are not satisfied with critical public services like electricity supply, health service delivery, water supply and education.

While rating the efficiency of the administration by survey respondents, the result shows that politicization of administration, excessive corruption, deep rooted administrative secrecy culture and low emphasis on meritocratic career are mainly downgrading the administrative performance for good governance (Table-3).

Table 2: Factors affecting Administrative Performance				
Causes	Degree of Affect			
	Most	Average	Partial	Negligible
Politicization of administration	11	2	1	0
Corruption	12	0	2	0
Financial constraint	4	2	2	6
Administrative secrecy	8	6	0	0
Low emphasis on merit based career	6	6	2	0
Lack of manpower and infrastructure	2	3	5	4
Low salary	5	3	3	3
Source: IGS Survey 2009				

Weak Financial Accountability

Weakness in the system of financial accountability has taken their toll on the development outcomes. Bangladesh procures approximately annually US\$3 billion worth of goods, works and services. In that, due to delay and procurement related corruption, the annual loss of government is estimated to a range between \$300 and \$450 million.¹⁴ This is a sorry state of procurement sector which poses a grave threat towards ensuring good governance.

13. The World Bank Report 2003, Bangladesh Development Policy Review: Impressive Achievements but Continuing Challenges, Executive Summary, P.23

14. Bangladesh Development Policy Review, 2003: Impressive Achievements but Continuing Challenges, P.23

Dependency on International Donors

Over the last two decades international donors progressively took over the control of the development vision of Bangladesh. This process has been driven by an increasing dependence on foreign aid to underwrite Bangladesh's development process. Aid dependence has provided leverage to the aid donors to influence the direction of policy agendas of Bangladesh. Thereby donors impose extensive conditionality and pressure for reforms as their terms of assistance. Sometimes these conditions are unrealistic and difficult to carry out. Fortunately Bangladesh has remarkably reduced her dependency on donors in last few years.

Ineffective Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)

Since its inception, ACC was not allowed to be fully activated, neither it could work independently owing to different reasons. There is no permanent source of funding for the ACC to take initiatives independently for the various purposes essential for its anti-corruption drive. In order to make the ACC more independent, a long-term block grant could be provided by the Parliament at the beginning of each new term.¹⁵

Constraints of the Election Commission (EC)

Though Bangladesh EC has the constitutional status, it perhaps could not carry out its far-ranging responsibilities in many occasions. Most importantly, the EC faced difficulties in restoring its image and credibility during the democratic regimes. The fact remains that if the elections at all levels are free, fair and credible, political instability will be minimal and governance quality will improve.¹⁶

Politicization of the Public Service Commission (PSC)

It almost has become a tradition to bring change in the PSC Chairman and member's position with the change of the government. The majority of the members are perceived to be politically affiliated with the ruling party and as such the entire management of the PSC is likely to be politically manipulated.

15. Institute of Governance Studies, 2007. Background Paper on Anti-Corruption Commission

16. Jahan, F., Shahan, A. and Haque, M. Ashraful, 2008. Background Paper on Bangladesh Election Commission.

Ombudsman

All the successive governments could not succeed in setting up an office of ombudsman. An Ombudsman act was enacted in 1980, though no initiative to execute this act was undertaken. The key impact of an effective Ombudsman lies in its power to focus public, legislative and government attention to grievances of citizens.¹⁷

HEADWAYS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

The strategy of promoting good governance basically emphasizes on certain critical reform dimensions. For ensuring good governance the followings are to be ensured:

Strengthening Public and Private Sector

Rule of Law, pro-active private sector, low level corruption and participatory approach that permits a partnership between the state, business and civil society are the essential factors for enhancing state capability that contribute to good governance. Specific options are discussed below:

- a. **Civil Service Reform.** Civil service reform is an important step in governance reform, and an area in which substantial progress is possible over the medium term. The reform should focus on institutional building on the term of efficiency, transparency and accountability.
- b. **Private Sector Reform.** Better governance demands more coordination, less bureaucratic intervention and greater facilitation (reducing transaction cost, better port facilities, and easy banking and communication facilities) by the government in the private sector.¹⁸ Private investment should be encouraged through inter-active government policy and an independent regulatory agency.

Improvement in Democratisation

- a. **Electoral Process.** Establishing tradition of free and fair election is fundamental to democracy and escape from endemic corruption. Moreover, accountability is the universal remedy for corruption and only free and fair periodic elections can ensure accountability.

17. Iftekharuzzaman, 15 May 2007. "Ombudsman for Good Governance in Bangladesh: Why Now and How, a paper presented at the seminar organized jointly by Manusher Jonno Foundation and TIB.

18. Muhammad Zamir, June 12, 2004. Good Governance and economic progress, The Daily Star. Dhaka,

- b. **Political Reform.** Bangladesh needs new roles and new behaviour from its political leaders who should be more tolerant, transparent and committed to the people. The strengthening of political parties, therefore, is an urgent endeavour. Undue politicisation of various organs needs to be avoided for delivering service to the public and ensuring social justice.
- c. **Politico-Bureaucratic Harmony.** The relationship between civil servants and politicians should be based on trust, confidence, and mutual respect. But such situation does not exist in Bangladesh. The earlier we arrive at a healthy and fair politico-bureaucratic understanding in Bangladesh, the better it would be for creating an environment for establishing good governance.¹⁹
- d. **Effective Parliament.** We have passed about twenty one years of parliamentary democracy. But unfortunately, due to absence of ideal parliamentary culture and continuous absence of the opposition have made the parliament ineffective.

Accountability and Transparency

To ensure free flow of information and make government transparent and accountable, certain public accountability institutions are required to be strengthened. Institutions like Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the office of CAG, ACC should be strengthened and a wide range of authority should be given to them for enforcing their decisions.

Rule of Law

Human rights are sometimes violated by the so-called black laws that abridge basic rights and legalize arbitrary and coercive actions by the state. These laws must be examined very carefully and ways to be found to retain necessary authority for good governance without compromising fundamental rights. Police reform is a priority component of any long-term governance reform strategy.

Decentralization / Local Government

Local government should be made more participatory and people-oriented. Government should genuinely focus on the empowerment of the local authorities and improve their institutional efficiency. The members of the local government should be elected locally and development should take place as per the local choice and decision-making process.

19. Combined Study Group -2, P.7,1999. The Administration in Bangladesh, A research paper prepared in National Defence College, Mirpur, Dhaka.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: THE IMPACT

General

National security is inseparable from good governance, since good governance helps prevent conflicts and ensures peace. Looking at the matter in a more down-to-earth manner, good governance is in fact good management that would ensure security of the people; and if people are secure so will be the state.²⁰ The aspiration should be to strive for absolutely good governance that fulfills all the universally accepted criteria.

Traditional Security Threats to Bangladesh

External Security Threats to Bangladesh

Threats from India. The bilateral relation between Bangladesh and India has reached to a new dimension during the present regime. However, fresh water is going to be one of the most important resources in the next century on which the bilateral relation's future will hinge upon. The insurgency in India's North-eastern states might also interrupt Bangladesh's security due to close proximity. Some other outstanding issues like illegal migrants, cross-border insurgency, demarcation of remaining 06 km land and demarcation of maritime boundary; exchange of enclaves etc might have security implication in the future.

Threats from Myanmar. Bangladesh's small border with Myanmar had been eventful in the past two decades. There had been two waves of ethnic Muslim minority Rohingya refugees forced into Bangladesh in 1978 and 1992. Very recently, Myanmar Government has denied the existence of the Rohingya people in the soil of Myanmar which has made thousands of the Rohingyas homeless for the third time. It is a wonderful opportunity for both the countries to improve their bilateral relation drastically, as the long outstanding maritime demarcation dispute has been recently resolved through a historical verdict.

Internal Security Threats to Bangladesh

Insurgency in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The implementation of CHT Peace Accord, particularly, the rehabilitation of tribal refugees, land disputes settlement and functioning of political process in terms of Regional Council has not yet been materialized. Alarming, a dissident faction of the former Shanti bahini has not surrendered arms who are opposing the implementation of the Peace Treaty.

20. Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan (retd), 04 March. How good is good enough? , Daily Star.

Arms and Drug Trafficking. Bangladesh is positioned between the “Golden Triangle” and the “Golden Crescent” the two major narcotic growing areas of the world. The ports and airports of Bangladesh are allegedly used as transit routes for drugs. Inflow of arms and drugs are increasing at an alarming pace.

Terrorism. Rise of terrorism had always been a growing concern for Bangladesh. Though present Government is very successful in keeping the threat to a minimum level, the terrorists are likely to take the any advantage created in the country due to poor governance.

Communal Riots. Communal riots created by the religious extremists in the neighbouring countries may ignite the locals specially, people living in the border areas. These may create unwanted communal violence in Bangladesh which is likely to threaten the national security as a whole.

Non-Traditional Security Threats to Bangladesh

Law and Order Deterioration and Social Violence. The south western districts and northern districts sometimes get volatile and restless following increase in the number of incidences of killings and intra-party violence by the banned underground political parties. The increasing rate of urban crimes and social violence are creating an insecure environment for the citizens. Internal disorder and lawlessness can lead to a situation that may disintegrate the national security of Bangladesh.

Use of Bangladesh Territories by Insurgents and Outlaws. This includes the North East insurgents, outlaws like Rohingya refugees who reportedly undergo arms training in the jungles of Cox’s Bazar, Ramu, Ukhiya. The borders are very porous and resource crunch does not allow Bangladesh to patrol the borders rigorously.

Human Security issues. Several sources of threats to human security may be identified. These are: repression by state apparatus, death in custody, law and order problem and rise of social violence, rising extortions and rent seeking activities at all levels and layers, gender violence, women and child trafficking, land related violence, disaster, drought and river erosion resulting in destitution and rural-urban migration, plight of the border and enclave population, plight of the minorities and settlers in CHT, and other tribal population.

Mass Poverty as Source of Insecurity. Poverty in Bangladesh has been historically overwhelming. Income poverty trends although showing a declining trend in last ten years, yet 31.5% of the total population is living under poverty line. UNDP Human Development Report 2011 says that Bangladesh ranked 146th among 187 countries in the overall HDI. The present HDI of Bangladesh is 0.500 while the regional average is 0.548, placing Bangladesh even below the regional average. This is a matter of concern, because it is poverty that leads to social unrest and imbalance the pendulum of national security.

Environmental Security Threat to Bangladesh

Global Climate Change and Bangladesh. Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries of the world. Environmental disasters like tropical cyclones, storm surges, floods, tornadoes and droughts ravage the country almost every year. Due to the constant sea level rising, people in the coastal areas are being internally displaced and creating enormous pressure on the cities. As such, urban crimes are at rise and people are insecure.

Forestry Related Environmental Degradation. Unplanned destruction of forest causes recurring and highly devastating floods and also the reverse, droughts. Due to unprecedented siltation, the Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems are to carry over 2.2 billion tons of sediments each year.²¹ This results in the rise of riverbed in between 6 and 12 inches a year, thus, making it impossible for the rivers to drain the water. The ultimate consequence of it is recurring devastating floods.

Impact of Good Governance on Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Issues

National security considerations in the context of threat for the third world countries are significantly different from those in the developed World. The main threat here is socio-economic and emanates from consequences of such socio-economic causes. Even the threat of external intervention and foreign initiated political instability are possible because of internal weaknesses arising out of socio-economic imbalances and maladies. In most of the Third World countries internal political instability is as much a threat to vital national values as threats that originate externally and Bangladesh is no exception to that.²²

Threats emanating from domestic socio-economic realm are perhaps more significant in Bangladesh like many other Third World countries. Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries with a per capita GNP of only 800 US\$.

21. A. H. Shibusawa, "Co-operation in Water Resources Development in South Asia", South Asia Journal, Vol.1, No.3, p.319

22. Brigadier General Salim Akhter, 1999. National Security : Strategies for Bangladesh- a research paper written in NDC.

The economy is primarily agrarian that still absorbs about 52% of the total work force and contributes about 18% of its GDP which reveals conditions of abject poverty for the majority of the people. Though Bangladesh has shown an excellent improvement in all the socio-economic indicators in last few years along with a sustained growth rate above 6%, yet a huge number of people are living below the poverty line. These poverty stricken people, for obvious reasons, cannot be expected to contribute to the security of the country. This is where good governance plays the most vital role in arresting the poverty and ensuring the national security.

There are examples all round us of peace and security being at risk when governance breaks down. That's why aid agencies around the world are devoting a higher and higher proportion of their resources trying to improve national governance. There is a lot to be learned from the multiple failures of governance that have contributed to conflict in recent memory. So far as individual countries are concerned, there are problems of which the world is now acutely aware with failed states like Somalia and Afghanistan – where the lesson seems to have at last been painfully learned.²³ It is rather persistent failures of governance at multiple levels: political leadership, constitutional structures, judicial system, administration, micro-economic management, civil-military relations and the internal operation security sector institutions that may lead to a situation where country like Bangladesh is likely to face traditional security threats. If not taken care of in time, governance state of Bangladesh may reach to a point where external (UN) intervention could be seen as the last option. So it is the people of Bangladesh who have to be offered with good governance to ensure our national security

The Way Forward

Arriving at a National Consensus. Bangladeshis are yet to develop national consensus on many issues, which are essential for maximizing national objectives. At this critical juncture of political chaos and confusion, the country now require public or national consensus on issues like sharing of water, transshipment/transit to India, settlement of different enclaves, decreasing trade deficit etc.

Sustained Economic Development. Bangladesh does not have any option left except to adopt a strategy of sustained economic development. Failing to do so, the ever increasing population will pose the biggest threat and it may turn into a state of social anarchy and lawlessness.

23. Address by Gareth Evans to EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum, 24 January, 2002, Governance Across Borders – National, Regional and Global, United Nations University, Tokyo.

Friendship and Accommodation with Neighbours. Bangladesh must adopt a policy of friendship and accommodation to her big and powerful neighbours. But it should not compromise with the core values of political independence and the sovereignty of the country. Bangladesh should also exploit good relation and friendship with her other important neighbour in the East, to the best economic interest of the country. Bangladesh must sort out the “Rohinga Refugee” issue.

A Comprehensive Defence Policy. The military strategy and doctrine must be related to the objectives of our foreign policy, to the nature of external threats that are perceived, and to the military capabilities of the potential adversaries. In this context, Bangladesh should maintain close ties with the power blocks to get the security umbrella in the events of crises threatening her sovereignty.

Dealing with Incipient Insurgency. An important consideration of dealing with incipient insurgency which eventually snowballs into full-fledged insurgency is the inter-temporal cost of mitigating the root causes of insurgency. It is possible to head off an incipient insurgency at a lower cost which may not be allowed to linger and harden.

Integrated Border Management. Borders have become porous and with flow of information and easy access to technology, cross-border movements of insurgencies, arms and drugs, even trafficking of women and children are common phenomenon. Construction of barbed wire fencing along the Bangladesh-India borders is a point of concern. It is submitted that openness and free flow of information, rather than closing the doors is the best remedy for intrusion of unwanted elements.

Cooperation on Environmental Security. Environmental security, especially issues like flood, natural disaster, presents another logical basis for thinking in terms of cooperative security among the neighbours.

Institutionalization of Democracy. Further institutionalization of democracy, even if slow and painful, should continue to sort out vulnerabilities in the non-traditional security areas, and a policy suggestion will be to resist temptation of any short cut and allow the political process to continue even if the process turns out to be traumatic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The subject study puts forward the following recommendations:

- a. Bangladesh Government should ensure a reform in the Civil Administration which shall focus mainly on merit, capacity building, enhancement of service delivery including the implementation of present Civil Service Commission's recommendations. This should be considered as a Top Priority.
- b. A national consensus to be arrived for reviewing article 67(1)(b) of the Constitution with a view to preventing the boycott of Parliament by the political parties.
- c. ACC to be strengthened by ensuring administrative and financial independence, adequate and competent manpower and autonomous recruitment of routine staffs.
- d. Government should immediately establish Rule of Law by creating independent investigation department, government prosecution service, corruption free Judiciary, access to legal aid and judicial accountability.
- e. EC and the Political Parties should take attempts for the democratization of the political parties by ensuring party reforms including financial transparency.
- f. A comprehensive National Security Strategy must be adopted for combating terrorism by establishing inter-ministerial committees to meet and liaise with established public and private institutions.
- g. A workable regional and international cooperation mechanism should be chalked out by Bangladesh Government to ensure our National Security.
- h. The Government should pursue a policy of sustainable economic development through development oriented macro- economic policies.

CONCLUSION

Good governance ensures that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in societies and the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable are heard in decision making. Good governance in terms of quality should be seen having such attributes as accountability, transparency, efficiency, empowerment, participation, sustainability, equity and justice. Throughout this study, we attempted to show that Bangladesh does so far have a grim state of governance mainly due to its failure to develop some critical state institutions with right kind of abilities. Given the resource constraints, Bangladesh should follow a good enough governance strategy by developing some key institutions like the legislature, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, ACC, PSC and the OCAg with credible accountability and transparency. Bangladesh has done quite well against apparent governance failure during the last two decades. GDP has grown by over 6 percent annually in last 10 years. The HDIs have gone up considerably. Bangladesh has committed for attaining the targets embodied in the Millennium Declaration by 2015. If these are fulfilled by 2015, the impact would be highly beneficial for Bangladesh. It is therefore high time to concentrate on governance reforms so that those gains can be sustained with further acceleration.

Security is inseparable from good governance, since good governance helps prevent conflict and ensure peace. Experts opine that improvements in good governance are closely linked with security and stability. Inappropriate security structures and mechanisms can contribute to weak governance and to instability and violent conflict, which impact negatively on poverty reduction. Insecurity or lack of peace is the result of violence stemming from social or political instability. security, stabilisation, democratization and constitutionality are the basic conditions needed for individual well-being, peaceful coexistence and social, political and economic development. Appropriate measures should promote mechanisms providing peaceful solutions to conflicts and reconciliation and contribute to the protection and integration of minorities and underprivileged groups. And these are what guarantee security of the people. And if people are secure so is the state.

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Author

Brigadier General Mohammad Siddiquil Alam Sikder is a Course Member of NDC 2012. He was born on 01 October 1965. He was commissioned in the East Bengal Regiment on 19 May 1985 with Sword of Honour and Academic Gold Medal. Besides his regimental appointments as Company Second in Command, Adjutant, Company Commander, in three infantry units, he commanded one of the reputed Infantry units in Bangladesh Army in most adverse condition in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Besides being a staff officer in the Adjutant General's Branch in Army Headquarters, he served as a platoon/term commander in Bangladesh Military Academy. He was the chief instructor in Special Warfare Wing in the School of Infantry and Tactics. He was also appointed as a Senior Instructor of Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT). He served as the Colonel Staff in one of the infantry divisions. He commanded an infantry brigade before joining National Defence Course – 2012. He attended number of courses at home and abroad. He is a specialized Commando who attained his basic parachute training from Fort Benning, USA. He is a sky diver as well. He attended a course on special operation from Malaysia. He served as an operation officer in UN mission in Bosnia. He visited many countries across the globe. He obtained first class in Masters on Defence Studies from National University of Bangladesh. Brigadier Sikder is a proud father of two sons, both of them are students. His wife is a doctor. His hobby is playing golf.