



Bangladesh's Growing Prosperity - Implications for Australian Trade, Investment and Security

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Dr. David Brewster, Dr. Lailufar Yasmin and Mr. Mohammad Chowdhury, moderated by Dr. Mike Moignard

Tuesday 21 June 5:00pm for 5.30pm - 6:30pm (AEST) 1:30pm - 2:30pm (BST)
Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne VIC 3002

This year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh. During that time, Bangladesh has transformed itself from the global poster-child of poverty into an emerging middle power in Asia. Its economy is outpacing many of its neighbours, including India, Pakistan and Myanmar. Bangladesh's meteoric rise creates significant economic and strategic opportunities for itself and Australia.



To Bangladesh, Australia presents significant trade and investment opportunities in ready-made garments, Liquid Natural Gas (LNG), agriculture and food. To Australia, Bangladesh serves as a strong entry point into the South Asian markets, as it begins to expand beyond East Asia due to growing tensions with China. Cooperation between the two countries will also be essential to address common concerns and shared security interests on matters such as climate change, maritime security, terrorism and transnational crime.

Bangladesh has been seeking to maintain a balance and strategic neutrality among competing groupings in a fast-changing geo-strategic landscape in the Indian Ocean region. A pacific, neutral and middle economic power Bangladesh could be a potential partner of other middle power countries in the region to safeguard stability and promote rules based regional order.

How can Bangladesh and Australia improve their strategic relationship? How will the recently signed Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) impact two-way trade and investment between Australia and Bangladesh? And how can Bangladesh and Australia work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Indian Ocean region?

In partnership with the Bangladesh High Commission and DFAT Victoria State Office, AIIA Victoria invites you to join a keynote address from H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, followed by a panel discussion with Dr. David Brewster, Dr. Lailufar Yasmin and Mr. Mohammad Chowdhury. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Mike Moignard.

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman is the High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. As a career diplomat with over 30 years'

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In-person: AIIA VIC Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$20. Non-members \$30. Student Non-members \$10.

Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10



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experience, H.E. Mr. Mohammah Sufiur Rahman has held numerous positions including High Commissioner to Myanmar from 2014-2017 and High Commissioner to Sri Lanka from 2012-2014. He has served as Deputy High Commissioner at Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad from 2008-2009, as Director at the SAARC Secretariat from 2004-2007 and Counsellor at the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from 1999-2002.

Dr. David Brewster is a senior research fellow at the National Security College, Australian National University, where his research primarily focuses on strategic affairs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. In 2019, Dr. Brewster released a major report, [Australia's Second Sea: Facing our Multipolar Future in the Indian Ocean](#), which proposes a new roadmap for Australia's strategic engagement in the Indian Ocean.

Dr. Lailufar Yasmin is a Professor at the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She has been a recipient of the US Fulbright, the British Chevening, and the Australian International Post-Graduate Research Scholarship (IPRS). Her areas of research include Bangladesh's politics, economy and foreign policy, South Asian Affairs, China's Rise, maritime security and the Indo-Pacific Region, and women's participation in UN Peacekeeping.

Mr. Mohammad Chowdhury is a Partner at PwC Australia and a member of the firm's global Telecom, Media and Technology leadership team and has previously held senior roles at Vodafone Group and IBM. He has lived and worked in Bangladesh, including advising on telecom sector reforms as well as the Prime Minister's Office in digitisation. He is passionate about inclusion and his book, *Border Crossings: My Journey as a Western Muslim*, was published in 2021.

Dr. Mike Moignard is a Council Member of the AIIA Victoria. He is an Adjunct Research Fellow at La Trobe University, and an Academic Fellow with the Australia India Institute.

This event is open to all and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Tuesday 21 June at 2.30pm AEST, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 5:30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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