

Unfolding Bangladesh and Threat to India

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Abstract:

After an undemocratic regime transition, Sheikh Hasina fled to India on August 5, 2024, and the government of Bangladesh changed. The leader of the new government(Mohammad Yunus) , who is rebuilding ties with Pakistan, is vehemently opposed to India rather than pro-India. India's sovereignty and territorial integrity may be in jeopardy as a result of the new Bangladeshi government's possible involvement in the ongoing conflict in Manipur. The new government is nothing less than the rebirth of a united Pakistan, and India is now facing a battle on three fronts, just as it was in 1971.

Damage done by Yunus to Bangladesh-India Relations:

A. *Killing Hindus and other Minorities:*

Although the current government includes human rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan and women's rights activist Farida Akhtar, the status of Hindus and other minorities is still unstable, and extreme groups like Jamaat-e-Islami are persecuting them. (Bose et al., 2024) (Marof, 2024).The fringe and radical parts of the population are made up of some members of the interim government and organisations with anti-Indian sympathies, such as the JeI, Hefazat-E-Islam Bangladesh, Ansarul Bangladesh, Hizb-ut-Tahrir, and others of the same kind. Following Sheikh Hasina's eviction, a number of them who had previously been imprisoned were freed, and they are doing all in their power to stir up anti-Indian and pro-Pakistan sentiment. These organisations want to transform Bangladesh into an Islamic state governed by Sharia law by destroying the spirit of the 1971 liberation movement and changing the country's secular, syncretic nature. (Sajjanhar, 2024).

Following Hasina's departure, there were reports of numerous communal attacks, with a focus on Bangladeshi Hindus. These episodes included murders and looting in several regions throughout the nation, as well as attacks on minority communities' homes, businesses, and temples. When the Chief Advisor called PM Modi on August 16, 2024, he brought up the protection and security of all Hindus and minorities in Bangladesh. Dr. Yunus promised that all minorities in Bangladesh, including Hindus, will be protected, safe, and secure. These have turned out to be only words thus far. According to Yunus and his officials, media stories about minority persecution are greatly overstated. This has given the offenders even more motivation to carry out their brutal crimes without consequence.

The already raging fire has been fuelled by the recent arrest of Hindu spiritual guru Chinmoy Krishna Das on charges of sedition. Because the Lawyers' body threatened to retaliate, no lawyer was permitted to take up Chinmoy Das's case in court, demonstrating the amount of intolerance and anti-India sentiment among the general public. Yunus consistently claimed that the attacks are not "communal" but are politically motivated because the Hindus are mostly seen as AL supporters, in response to India's statements of grave concern and demands for punitive action against the offenders. Those who are being attacked or whose

houses, places of worship, and places of employment are being vandalised can scarcely find comfort or justification in this. (Sajjanhar, 2024).

Up till December 8, 2,200 incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities have been registered in Bangladesh; India expects Dhaka to take the required steps to protect them, the government said Friday. Citing data from human rights and minority organisations, Kirti Vardhan Singh, the Minister of State for External Affairs, provided the information in a written response to a Rajya Sabha question. (“2,200 Cases of Violence Against Hindus ,Other Minorities in Bangladesh: Govt,” 2024)

B. *Allowing ISI-Pakistan:*

To exacerbate the situation, Pakistan has begun to encroach on Bangladesh. On November 11, 2024, the first cargo ship to make the 53-year journey straight from Pakistan to Bangladesh anchored in Chittagong harbour. The requirement that imports from Pakistan undergo a physical inspection was abolished in October by the interim administration of Bangladesh. These changes must be viewed in light of the Chittagong arms haul that was seized in 2004. The estimated \$4.5-7 million consignment included over 1,500 cartons of Chinese ammo, purportedly intended for the outlawed militant group ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom), and believed to have been orchestrated by Pakistan's intelligence service, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). (Sajjanhar, 2024)

The Yunus administration also eliminated the need for Pakistani nationals to receive security clearance prior to submitting a visa application. Yunus had emphasised the importance of reviving bilateral collaboration when he met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the UN General Assembly in New York in September. The problems that Bangladesh is posing to India are made worse by all of these developments. (Sajjanhar, 2024).The Yunus government has done enough to create a swift highway for Pakistan to make inroads and it raises a huge security concern for India.

"India wants a positive, constructive, and mutually beneficial relationship with Bangladesh," FS Vikram Misri told all of his interlocutors during his visit to Bangladesh on December 9. People-centric and people-oriented relationships are what we have always seen in the past and will continue to see in the future. FS Misri gave his Bangladeshi interlocutors a straightforward and unambiguous message about India's redlines with regard to the safety and security of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh and the necessity of not providing sanctuary to terrorist groups or insurgencies that are aimed at India. The interim government of Bangladesh must acknowledge that good relations with India are extremely advantageous for the country and its citizens in fostering peace, security, and economic expansion. (Sajjanhar, 2024)

According to reports, Muhammad Yunus and important military officials are expected to meet with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Egypt. These high-level exchanges point to a concerted attempt to plan and increase ISI influence. These gatherings raise questions about possible global repercussions since they point to a larger network of cooperation meant to threaten regional stability. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024)

B. *Calling to annex north-east:*

Muhammad Yunus's close friend and counsellor to the interim administration, Mahfuz Alam, fuelled controversy when he claimed that West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura "are part of Bangladesh, this was condemned by the Ministry of External Affairs on Friday, stating that the interim government should be "mindful" of the remarks made in public. The sentiment of minister represents the greater thirst and lust of majority of Islamic radicals in the Bangladesh.

C. *Erasing India's legacy:*

In commemoration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 1975 murder, the Yunus government has

abolished the national mourning day in Bangladesh, which falls on August 15. Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Mujib is considered the Father of the Nation. Perhaps this is done to remove the legacy of Mujib-ur-Rehman and India, who assisted him in gaining authority and independence from Pakistan. (Bose et al., 2024). In Bangladesh and India, connectivity is broadly defined as encompassing digital and energy links in addition to physical connectivity. This was stated in the joint statement that the two nations released in June 2024, during Hasina's final trip to India as prime minister of Bangladesh. The document read-We share the conviction that our progress and prosperity are interlinked and reaffirm our mutual desire to guide India-Bangladesh ties to a new era of future-oriented partnership, for which we recognize each other as indispensable partners in realizing our respective national development visions of "Viksit Bharat 2047" and "Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041" (*India-Bangladesh Shared Vision for Future: Enhancing Connectivity, Commerce and Collaboration for Shared Prosperity, 2024*)

India has frequently been accused of backing Hasina's dictatorship by the students and demonstrators who oppose her. India's reaction to the current events will determine how much of this rhetoric and narrative spreads. Actually, a number of activists have already claimed that India will send troops to revoke their "hard-won freedom." Any government will find it challenging to build solid relations with India and expand commercial connections as a result of this hostility. (Shivamurthy, 2024)

Subsector	Project	Year of Completion	Status
Energy	SASEC 1000MW-HVDC Bangladesh India Electrical Grid Interconnection Project I	2016	Completed
Transport	Restoration of the Radhikapur-Birol rail link	2017	Completed
Energy	SASEC 500MW-HVDC Bangladesh India Electrical Grid Interconnection Project II	2017	Completed
Transport	Restoration of the Haldibari – Chilahati rail link	2020	Completed
Transport	Restoration of the Gede-Darshana rail link	2021	Completed
Transport	Restoration of the	2022	Completed

	Petrapole-Benapole rail link		
Transport	Akhaura-Agartala rail link I	2023	Completed
Transport	Khulna-Mongla Port Rail	2023	Completed
Energy	Maitree Thermal Power Plant I, II	2023	Completed
Energy	India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline	2023	Completed
Energy	Rooppur Nuclear Plant I	2024	Under Construction
Energy	Katihar-Parbatipur-Bornagar 765 kV electricity transmission line	2025	Under Construction
Energy	Rooppur Nuclear Plant II	2027	Under Construction
Digital	ISRO-Bangladesh satellite launch		MoU signed
Digital	4G/5G connectivity projects by Indian companies		MoU signed

(Bose & Gupta, 2024)

The Yunus dictatorship has a hostile attitude towards India, and any signed and ongoing contracts are probably going to be put on hold until India topples the Yunus regime.

E. Rise of fanatics (Undemocratic):

Bangladesh is getting ready for a new start as it shakes off the remains of its government from the previous ten and a half years. The Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus is now leading an interim administration tasked with stabilizing a nation still racked by violence and upheaval. The renowned economist was chosen by the students to serve as the temporary government's chief adviser, a position comparable to that of prime minister. He has established an advisory council with 16 members from a variety of backgrounds. First off, the AL, the former ruling party, is predictably not represented on this council of advisers. This party's history predates the creation of Bangladesh itself; it has ruled the nation for almost 28 of its 53 years of independence and, until recently, had a sizable following there. But today, the temporary administration is acting to distance itself from the AL's history and connections. (Bose et al., 2024).

Relations with India have reached a new low in addition to the ongoing and escalating domestic conflict, especially in light of the violence and attacks on the minority Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist groups. Despite the abundance of recordings and documented proof to the contrary, Yunus and his administration continue to deny the existence of this violence and barbarism. Atrocities against minorities have increased as a result of this campaign of denial, which has also given the criminals more confidence. (Sajjanhar, 2024)

Security Implications for India: Since the Hasina administration has long advocated for better ties between Delhi and Dhaka, developments in Bangladesh have the most immediate effects on India, Bangladesh's neighbour. Following the January elections, a "Boycott India" movement was launched in Bangladesh in protest of Hasina's alleged pro-Indian views. As New Delhi works to build ties with the new government in Dhaka, the length of Hasina's stay in India may also present difficulties. New Delhi is concerned that any security issue in Bangladesh could spread to Bangladesh, which shares a 4,000-kilometer border with five Indian states. (Dr Chietigj Bajpae & Dr Patrick Schröder, 2024)

Not only India but China is also concerned with the new regime. A high-level US official group visited Bangladesh from September 14–15 and promised to donate US\$200 million in aid, which caused a great deal of irritation in Beijing. On the Chinese internet, there have been many rumours that Bangladesh, which is currently governed by a "pro-American" temporary administration, will suddenly decide to support the United States, endangering China's interests. Is the sovereignty of St. Martin Island or the tight relations between China and Bangladesh in general what the "US support" is being traded for? Even though India is frequently the goal of China's South Asia policy, China appears to be depending on India to resolve its own Bangladesh dilemma in the present. The regional power reorganisation in the context of the Bangladesh crisis is mostly determined by India and its response, according to a number of Chinese analysis. (Ghosal, 2024)

A secure neighbourhood was a result of Bangladesh's political stability brought about by former Prime Minister Hasina's uninterrupted reign. New Delhi benefited greatly from her government's unyielding "zero tolerance" policy against the rebel groups that were sheltering in Bangladesh and regularly causing unrest in India's surrounding Northeastern regions. But India is once again concerned about the security of the Northeast given PM Hasina's recent departure and the rise of extremist groups in Bangladesh, including the reinstatement of the once-banned Jamaat-e-Islami. Since there have been allegations of violence against Hindu minorities who may wish to leave the nation, a high warning has been issued along the border to prevent spillovers. (Bose, 2024).

Minorities are going to face persecution in Bangladesh and they will strive to seek asylum in India. The refugee crisis will put a strain on India and increase the likelihood that radical Islamists will infiltrate the country and act as future sleeper cells to compromise its security. The end of the Hasina rule also creates uncertainty about the fate of India-Bangladesh developmental projects, especially connectivity initiatives. These projects, which have surged in recent years, include enhancing maritime trade for India's landlocked Northeastern states via Bangladesh's Chattogram and Mongla seaports, rebuilding age-old connectivity links severed during the 1947 Partition, and expanding roads, rails, inland waterways, and air links. As each other's largest trading partners in South Asia, with strong familial ties between citizens, these initiatives are essential for deepening bilateral relations. (Bose, 2024).

India and Bangladesh share a 4,096-kilometer land border that is primarily porous. Insurgent organisations used to frequent the states of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, which are near this border. However, because Hasina has kept terrorists and insurgent groups from taking asylum in

Bangladesh, the border has remained comparatively peaceful. The new situation with Bangladesh is concerning for India's national security, as the country faces significant problems along its borders with China and Pakistan. (Pant, 2024). Muhammad Yunus, the 84-year-old Nobel laureate and temporary leader of Bangladesh, has given India a preview of the danger that the country's next leader may represent. "If you destabilise Bangladesh, it will spill over all around, including Myanmar, the seven sisters, and West Bengal," he said quite bluntly. (Cdr Sandeep Dhawan (Retd), 2024)

Another issue that New Delhi will be keenly monitoring is the emergence of Islamist militancy in Bangladesh. Prior to Hasina, the government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) supported a number of extremist organisations that were thriving. Numerous of these organisations, including the Ansarullah Bangla Team, the Hizb ut-Tahrir, and the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), have ties to both the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and other terrorist organisations with headquarters in Pakistan. The current state of affairs in Bangladesh creates new opportunities to revive these connections. Many people believe that Jamaat-e-Islami was a major catalyst for the recent riots that overthrew Hasina. (Pant, 2024) And as we saw recently Hizb-ut-Tahrir tried to attack siliguri corridor. Bangladesh contributed to the end of the decades-long insurgency in India's historically unstable northeastern area by clearing out training camps that had been utilised by Indian separatist insurgents. Harkat-ul Jihad al-Islami-Bangladesh (HUJI-B), an extremist group associated with al-Qaeda, will also thrive in Bangladesh as a result of Hasina's departure. In 1992, HUJI-B was established. It quickly became embroiled in anti-Indian actions. It played a significant part in the formation of the Indian Mujahideen (IM) and the different acts of terrorism that the IM carried out in India. (Cdr Sandeep Dhawan (Retd), 2024).

At home, Bangladesh worked to eradicate Islamist organisations and vigorously opposed Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence network, which had previously been connected to some of these terrorist organisations. In 2017, it executed the head of the terrorist organisation Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh as part of its strict counterterrorism strategy. (*Bangladesh: Domestic Turmoil and Regional Insecurity*, 2024). The vandalism of the statue and family house of her father, Bangladesh's independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, seems to be a prominent example of the popular rage directed at Hasina and the threat to her family's heritage. India will also face difficulties if the BNP and Jel form a new government. There will be worries about a resurgence of support for rebel organisations in northeastern India as well as an increase in Islamist extremism in Bangladesh that might attack the nation's sizable Hindu population. (*Bangladesh: Domestic Turmoil and Regional Insecurity*, 2024). Furthermore, in the Northeast Region of India (NER), Bangladesh has historically served as a safe haven and launching pad for cross-border terrorism. Particularly in areas of lower Assam where there is a sizable number of undocumented Bangladeshi migrants, the region has witnessed an increase in jihadi organisations and fundamentalist political parties. It is thought that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and Bangladesh's Directorate General of Forces Intelligence are actively promoting terrorism in Northeast India. In 2007, Julius Dorphang, the former chairman of the Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC), a militant group that seeks to liberate Meghalaya from the alleged "Indian Occupation," provided evidence of the Bangladeshi connection and the support that the insurgent groups in the Northeast receive in its territory. (Vinayak Sharma, n.d.)

For India, the events in Bangladesh are likely to be of the greatest strategic significance. Bangladesh is currently in a critical situation both diplomatically and geopolitically as a result of its history of giving covert support to Indian insurgent organisations and the events currently taking place in Manipur. It is the history of coups, and to be clear, even if PM Hasina appears to have resigned, the new government is quite

different from the one that was overthrown. If this pattern continues, China would inevitably encircle India on three sides and radical Islamist nations on two. (Vinayak Sharma, n.d.) The Yunus regime and Bangladesh National Party (BNP) may exploit India's protection and backing of Hasina to incite anti-Indian feeling among Bangladeshis. They have already begun applying pressure on New Delhi by calling for the extradition of the former premier, and they have previously exploited anti-Indian rhetoric as a political tactic. (Khandakar Tahmid Rejwan, 2024)

Islamist Bangladesh 2.0 and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have a covert partnership that has recently drawn a lot of attention and raised questions about regional security and stability. According to recent accounts, the ISI entered Bangladesh with a deliberate plan to increase its power. To accomplish its strategic goals and undermine India, this need for both direct and indirect tactics. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024) These acts have repercussions that go well beyond Bangladesh and could disturb India, a neighbour. Yunus, who now has a lot of power in the interim administration, has been accused of helping the ISI with its operations. Relations between India and Bangladesh have reportedly worsened as a result of his advisors' alleged inflammatory remarks about the "occupation" of India's northeastern states. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024)

The estimated 300,000-person Urdu-speaking Bihari group in Bangladesh, which has long been marginalised, is now the main target of ISI operations. According to reports, the agency is grooming these people to be terrorists with the goal of using them as resources to carry out strikes against India. This exploitation poses a serious security risk in addition to making the situation in the community worse. The ISI is building a network of operatives who can carry out cross-border operations by radicalising disadvantaged communities. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024) This complex situation is further complicated by the ISI's collaboration with Rohingya armed groups, particularly the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). Through intermediaries including as Hizb-ut-Tahrir and trained Biharis, the ISI provides these groups with explosives, weapons, and logistical support. These actions are intended to especially target the Arakan Army in Rakhine State, Myanmar, in addition to destabilising India. Although ISIS's goal of causing widespread instability in the area is highlighted by this dual-front strategy, there are serious worries about the wider ramifications for regional security. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024).

There are important ramifications for India and the larger region from the ISI's growing influence in Bangladesh. Threats from ISI-supported networks are increasing in India's northeastern states, which are already vulnerable because of rebel activity. Though the ISI's cooperation with Rohingya and other militant groups has the potential to cause violence to spread throughout the region (targeting Myanmar and other neighbouring countries), cross-border terrorism, arms smuggling, and radicalisation initiatives could undermine India's internal security and strain bilateral relations with Bangladesh. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024) (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024)

Role of US and other actors: The alleged speech has become increasingly relevant since Hasina was compelled to leave her nation on August 5. The former prime minister is shown ostensibly acknowledging that she might have maintained her position of authority if she had acceded to US demands to cede sovereignty of Bangladesh's St. Martin's Island so that it could have "sway over the Bay of Bengal." (Bose & Mishra, 2024)

The country's overt attempts to host a "free and fair election" in Bangladesh this year, which has angered the Hasina administration, have fuelled new anxieties, despite the fact that US Department of State spokesperson Matthew Miller has denied such claims. The US's complicity in the regime change campaign is demonstrated by its calls for free and fair elections on the one hand and its silence regarding Yunus, the

undemocratic leader, on the other. For many regional and extra-regional entities in the Bay of Bengal, St. Martin's Island's geostrategic importance is indisputable, notwithstanding US protestations that its interests are still up for debate. (Bose & Mishra, 2024).

St. Martin's Island has its importance, Situated in the northeastern region of the Bay, the island is roughly 8 km west of north-western Myanmar and 9 km south of the Teknaf shore in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. Because of China's aggressive actions in the Indian Ocean region, the island is perfectly situated to provide surveillance in the Bay of Bengal, which has recently gained strategic importance. Under the aegis of its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Beijing has been making more investments in the Bay littoral nations in an effort to establish a presence in the Bay. Beijing's support for the construction of Dhaka's first submarine station, the BNS Sheikh Hasina, off the coast of Cox's Bazaar, is a noteworthy recent development. (Bose & Mishra, 2024). China was able to operate submarines in the Bay of Bengal thanks to the station, which was opened in 2023. Claims surfaced that same year that Beijing maintained an intelligence outpost on Coco Island in Myanmar, which is near the Strait of Malacca, a crucial chokepoint for Beijing since it receives almost 80 percent of its energy imports through the waterway. A greater marine footprint in the Indo-Pacific and the wider Indian Ocean region is based on China's expanding Bay presence. This runs counter to US objectives in the Indo-Pacific region, which aim to limit Beijing's hegemony. (Bose & Mishra, 2024).

Washington, which would seize any chance to install a more submissive government, is upset with Dhaka's attempts to diversify by putting some eggs in the China basket. Furthermore, it may be possible to keep Washington's strategic partner in the region—India—constrained by a volatile neighbourhood on a once-relatively-secure border, a possible resurgence of cross-border terrorism, and a US-backed establishment in Dhaka, especially when Delhi's autonomous decision-making conflicts with US interests in the region and beyond. (Kamal, 2024). Pakistan is an enemy by nature. It shares Beijing's hostile attitude against India and is also working with China. According to intelligence reports, Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing was instrumental, and there is proof that they received training in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Islamabad would benefit from Khaleda Zia's potential return with an anti-Indian viewpoint. (Kamal, 2024)

Hasina was aware of what was about to happen, as evidenced by her recent statements. "I don't know what rationale there is for making people suffer like this," she remarked in reference to the Western sanctions on Russia. This is another human rights infringement, in a sense. denying others what they are entitled to I hope the United States recognises the need to reverse that decision (imposing sanctions on Russia). We hope that they would rather penalise one nation than the entire world and discover that everyone wants it removed. "The US has the power to topple the government in any country, and particularly the Muslim countries," she added, taking it a step further. (Cdr Sandeep Dhawan (Retd), 2024)

Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's intelligence organisation, is responsible for the current events in Bangladesh. China and the United States are among the countries with a stake in Bangladesh. The fact that two of these three players are supporting the fatal protests in Bangladesh is well known. The leaders of the entire strategy are "Jamaat-e-Islami" and its student organisation, "Islami Chhatra Shibir" (ICS). Jamaat opposed the establishment of Bangladesh due to their Islamic beliefs, and they fought alongside the Pakistani Army against the Awami League in the 1971 liberation war. The most infamous Jamaat leader was Abdul Kader Mollah, who is renowned for being the "Butcher of Mirpur." The Pakistani intelligence agency ISI supports the extremist student group ICS. Pakistan is where many of its cadres received violent training. When ICS cadres infiltrated several institutions a few years ago, not to study but to advance the Jamaat's agenda, the plot against the Sheikh Hasina administration began. Their dens were

Sylhet University, Rajshahi University, Jahangir University, Dhaka University, and Chittagong University. In order to win university elections, the real student organisations had no choice but to rely on ICS. (Cdr Sandeep Dhawan (Retd), 2024).

It seems that plans to depose Sheikh Hasina have been in the works for a while. She may not have heard anything about these because she was no longer supported by the influential spy agencies. The intelligence agencies were instrumental in halting the rise of Political Islam to power in 2015 when ISIS (Daesh) was trying to collaborate with the Jamaat to cause chaos in Dhaka and other cities. Instead of completely supporting her, the Army institution itself most likely felt the ground sliding beneath her feet and provided diluted support. Sheikh Hasina has always been a target of the Islamists and has long been on their radar. (Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), 2024)

The case of Daniel Stephen Courtney, a US Army veteran and suspected deep-cover terror handler, adds to this complex web of actions. Following his deportation and blacklisting in 2017, Courtney is said to have stepped up his activities in India. Courtney's operations, which are conducted from a base in Nepal while posing as a business visa, demonstrate the international character of these dangers. Despite his prominence, attempts to neutralise his operations have reportedly been complicated by claimed assistance from Nepalese authorities. (Lt Gen AB Shivane, 2024). Following a rumoured video that purports to show him giving drones and protective jackets to Kuki insurgents in Manipur, American evangelist Daniel Stephen Courtney is facing criticism. This raised questions about his contentious actions and charges that he was inflaming Indian communal tensions. This also validates Sheikh Hasina's statements about US intending to create a new christian territory. (Shubham Tiwari & Bidisha Saha, n.d.)

Indian security forces have discovered a crucial connection between the Qatari government and Bangladeshi students, which US security personnel exploited to transfer substantial sums of money to various bank accounts both domestically and outside. The Bangladeshi students allegedly received substantial financial backing from Qatari sources and were associated with the Islami Chhatra Shibir and Hizbut Tahrir. (*Bangladesh Student Leaders Secretly Met ISI, US Officials In Pakistan, Qatar Last Year: Report*, 2024).

There are some dangers of overt operations like

- (a) **What if China and Pakistan get involved?:** Given that the new US government will target China, China is unlikely to become engaged. Furthermore, because he has replaced numerous defence ministers and military generals in the past four years, the Chinese president has little faith in the country's military leadership Jiang (2024). Pakistan is obviously involved in Bangladesh, but even if they were to directly enter the conflict, they would not be able to survive because of their severe economic circumstances.
- (b) **What if radical elements get in while India annexes Bangladesh ?:** Such situation should not arise because through covert operations radicals elements will be pushed in a landlocked territory
- (c) **What about the economy of India?:** The economy for next few years may face the heat of conflict, though long term benefits of annexation would compensate for the damage done to the economy.
- (d) **What about Sheikh Hasina?:** She has been a decent friend for New Delhi in Dhaka but given her age , she should live the last few years of her life peacefully.

The Way Ahead:

The Hasina Confusion:

Bangladesh has formally asked India to extradite Sheikh Hasina, its former prime minister. (*Bangladesh*

Formally Asks India to Extradite Former PM Sheikh Hasina, 2024) Notably, Sheikh Hasina has been an ally of India, and their relationship was founded on mutual assistance. Hasina has been making remarks from India that damage the reputation of the United States and the current Bangladeshi government. She would be executed in a well publicised political murder if she were returned to Bangladesh. Sending her back would send a message to other Indian allies that India does not support them during times of crisis, thus it is definitely not a measure that India should take.

Fail the conspirators plan:

The plot to establish a Christian state and use the St. Martin Islands as a military base for the Indian Ocean must fail because, should it succeed, India will lose its geopolitical clout in the region, and Bangladesh might attract international notice. If a Christian state is created, there is also a chance that the Northeast will be cut off from India because the bulk of the population in these states is Christian (*Christian Population in India - State Wise Population, n.d.*). With this knowledge, conspirators may forge a cultural connection that would foster Indian secessionism.

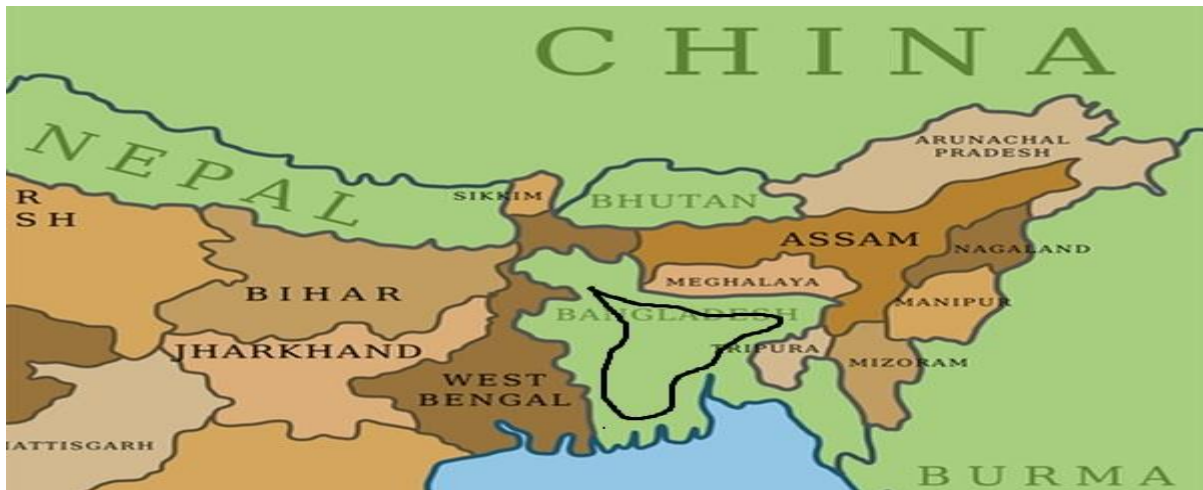
It would be a wonderful step if India is able to keep Pakistan engaged in Balochistan province and Afghanistan border, keeping them engaged at the other front.

Capture and merge Bangladesh into Indian Union and make it landlocked:

In the wake of the Yunus syndrome, India must educate certain people and send a message to the rest of the world, namely that Yunus must be overthrown by changing and shrinking the size of Bangladesh. If neighbourhood politics in any way jeopardise our interests, the state would have to step in. Therefore, in order to establish Bangladesh, we did intervene in Pakistan in 1971, and the message was “do not jeopardise India's interests”. India is well aware that it no longer has any friends in Dhaka, and that anti-Indian elements will eventually gain ground and cause harm to India regardless of New Delhi's efforts. Thus, India should do everything in its power to undermine the sovereignty of Bangladesh (Sam-Dam-Dand-Bhed). In order to replicate 1971, the covert operations must start immediately. In 1971 India could reach Dhaka because the gates were opened from within by Mukti Bahini which was covertly trained by India only. (Rajeev Bhattacharya, 2021). It is time that India trains Hindus, Buddhists and other minority groups and create a sentiment among them letting them know that India is a safe place for them.

The covert world would need a final overt touch also. For which India needs to increase recruitment in various defense and police forces to manage the situation. The Myanmar state is under a difficult situation, though they too are concerned with the safety of minorities in Bangladesh and thus they would not disrupt India's efforts in any such adventure. India must annex parts of Bangladesh and there is no wrong in doing so. Every country to protect its interests does so. Secondly annexing parts of Bangladesh would give a signal to the world that India will not tolerate any nuisance and is ready to regain its glory, India should not repeat Tashkent or Shimla or Panchsheel again.

India can use groups in the Arakan army to launch an attack on Bangladesh. The Indian army should march in towards Dhaka. India need not annex full of Bangladesh. New Delhi should make Bangladesh a landlocked nation and make sure that Bangladesh share's no boundary with ocean. The map below shows a black border in Current Bangladesh Map, the area inside black border should be Bangladesh and rest should be annexed by India.



(India and Bangladesh Border, n.d.)

Way to capture Bangladesh: A Military conquest succeeding a covert rebellion of minority groups. Conducting a plebiscite in favour of the territories joining the Indian union. It is also important to control the narrative during this. The basis of annexation would not only be security and sovereignty threats to India but to protect the human rights of minority groups from a fanatic state. The people of Bangladesh and India should be reminded of the promise done by Pakistan to protect religious minorities and it is their failure to protect minorities resulting in annexation of their territories. Entering into an agreement with the government of the day deciding to surrender the said territories.

Every nation and civilization has the right to self-defence, and India's conquest of some portion of Bangladesh would simply be a step in that direction. Additionally, it would safeguard the human rights of persecuted minorities, especially women and children, and free lakhs of them. By overthrowing a terrorist regime, India would greatly benefit the region and showcase its role as a regional provider of net security. India would first talk on table, but it is well aware of the use of hard power if the adversary doesn't mend their ways.

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