Bangladesh & International Relations

Foreign Policy

- Foreign Policy of a state is a kind of complex and dynamic political course which helps to maintain relation with other states in order to protect its own national interest.
- Foreign policy can be considered as a tool of the national policy of a state which relates to the external government.
- In general foreign policy is a wheel through which the process of international politics operates.

- According to **Prince Otto Von Bishmark** the first German chancellor "**Foreign policy is the extension of domestic policy"**
- American president **Henry Kissinger** explained foreign policy as the terminal point of domestic policies.
- In a nutshell foreign policy consists of courses of actions that helps to achieve its national interest in the global environment.

Bangladesh Foreign Policy

- Being a member of the **“United Nations(UN)”** and “**Non-Alligned Movement (NAM)”** Bangladesh follows the principal of these institutions regarding foreign policy.
- Article **25 of the Bangladesh Constitution** stated that Bangladesh shall base its international relations on the principles of respect for national sovereignty and equality, non-interference in the international affairs of other countries peaceful settlement of international disputes and respect for international law and principles given in UN charter.

- The **Article 25 of the constitution** also states that Bangladesh will strive for renunciation of the use of force in international relations and for general and complete disarmament.

- The same article also upholds the rights of every person freely to determine and build its own free choice and support the oppressed people's throughout the world waging a struggle against imperialism, colonialism or racism.

Principles of Bangladesh Foreign Policy

- Friendship to all, malice to none.
- Nonintervention in the international matter of other states.
- Equality and mutual benefit.
- Respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of other states.
- To ensure international peace and security.
- Peaceful Co-existence.

Key objectives of Bangladesh's International Relations

- Self-Preservation.
- Economic advancement and integration.
- Safeguarding as well as augmenting national power.
- Upholding National Ideology.
- Upholding National Prestige.
- Developing political harmonies in the world.

- Maintenance of territorial integrity.
- Combat against terrorism.
- Increasing Remittances and Intellectual investment.
- Market expansion and promotion of trade.
- Building national and International co-operation.
- Ensuring global peace in the world.

Determinants of Bangladesh Foreign Policy

- Internal and external factors are influencing Bangladesh's foreign policy.
- **Internal factors of determining foreign policies are:**
- Geography
- Culture and history.
- Economic development.
- Social structure(society which is divided on the basis of wealth ,religion, regional imbalances etc)
- National Capacity(Military power and technological advancement)
- Political leadership.
- Role of press and media.

- **External factors for determining foreign policies are:**

- Power structure
- International organization

Foreign Policy decision makers

Formal Institutions	Informal Institutions
National Assembly/House of the nation	Political parties
Prime minister	Press & Media
President	
Ministry of foreign affairs	
Ministry of Defense	
Ministry of commerce, armed forces and civil bureaucrats	

Concerning issues of current Bangladesh Foreign Policies

- Peace-keeping.
- Micro-credit.
- Religious discourses.
- Counter terrorism.
- Climate change.
- International migration and remittances
- Transit/Transhipment/gas pipeline

Success achieved through Bangladesh foreign policies

- Bangladesh got 111 enclaves whether India got 52 enclaves on 31 july,2015.
- Bangladesh won the maritime disputes and got huge maritime boundary in Bay of Bengal in 2012 and 2014 with Myanmar and India.
- As an active member of the UN, the Non-aligned Movement, the OIC, the Commonwealth and various other international forums, Bangladesh promotes global peace, stability, cooperation and development.

- Bangladesh had pioneered the formation of SAARC- a regional cooperation body comprising the eight nations of South Asia-namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Priority emphasis is placed now on bolstering trade, connectivity and economic ties with the countries of South and Southeast Asia. Bangladesh has already signed agreements for free trade areas under the aegis of SAARC and BIMSTEC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation).

- Bangladesh has secured its place as contributor of highest number of troops to UN peace keeping missions through the Foreign Ministry’s dynamic attempt.
- Bangladesh has been congratulated for its leadership in UN Peace Building Commission and contribution in UN peace keeping missions. Bangladesh has also sent female police personnel as first time last two years in the peace keeping missions that is highest number of the world.

- Recently Bangladesh has been elected as member of about 35 upper bodies of the United Nations that made a record. At the same time, it is a reflection of the international community's trust to Bangladesh. Bangladesh elected member to the executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, UN Women, Chairperson elect of the UNGA's second Committee (Economic & Financial Committee of the 66th UNGA), elect member of UN Peace-building Commission and UN-Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).