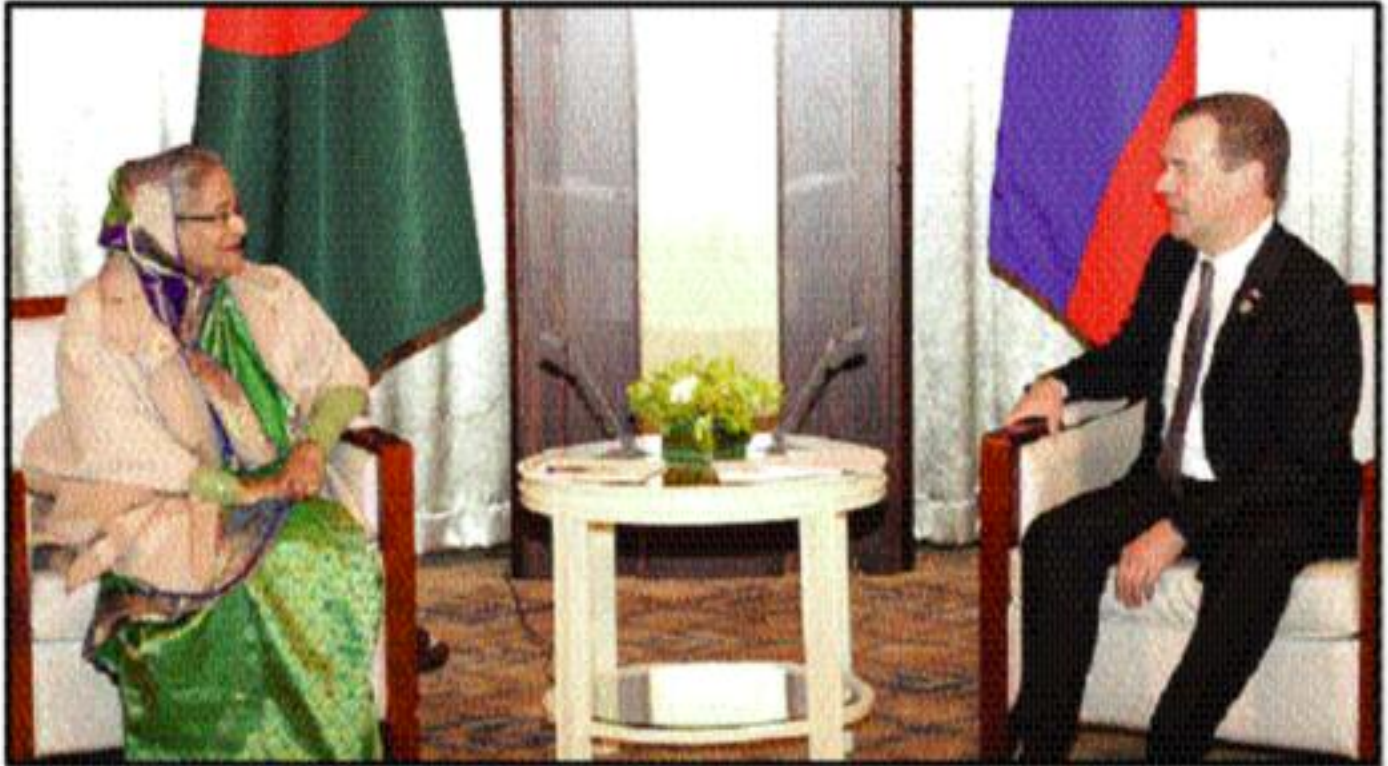


# Rising Asia

July-September 2016 Issue 06



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held bilateral meetings with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev during the 11th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulaanbaatar, capital city of Mongolia on Friday, 15 July 2016.

## RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE



Hillary Clinton



Donald Trump

- Chinese Premier Wins Backing Over South China Sea at ASEM Summit
- US Presidential Election Process
- Canada is the Least Xenophobic Country in the Western world. Here's why
- Saudi Arabia's Bold Vision for Economic Diversification
- Indian PM Narendra Modi's Speech to the Joint Session of US Congress
- Putin May Be Turkey's New Buddy After the Failed Coup
- Enhancing Asia-Europe Partnership in the 21st Century
- Ten Ways Duterte Plans to Change Philippines



## We mourn

We are remembering the victims of the deadly terror attack on July 1, 2016 on the Holey Artisan Bakery at Gulshan Diplomatic Zone in Dhaka. We mourn and our deepest sympathies are with their families at this time. They will remain in our prayers.

### 9 Italians



### 7 Japanese

Hideki Hashimoto, Nobuhiro Kurosaki, Koyo Ogasawara, Makoto Okamura, Yuko Sakai,  
Rui Shimodaira, Hiroshi Tanaka

### 1 Indian



### 3 Bangladeshis



### 2 Bangladeshi Police officers







**Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**

## **15 August: The National Mourning Day**

15th August is the National Mourning Day. At the fateful night of August 15 in 1975, the cruelest assassination of history took place. The founding architect of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation, the Glorious Leader of Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with all the members of his family then in Dhaka and other leaders. Anti-Liberation and reactionary international forces with the help of their local henchmen staged this most brutal murder of all times. The anti-liberation reactionary and counter-revolutionary forces usurped the state-power through the assassination of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975.

The killers brutally murdered not only Bangabandhu, but also his wife Bangamata Fazilatunnesa Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russell, daughters-in-Law Sultana Kamal and Parvin Jamal. Seventeen more dear and near ones of Bangabandhu, including his brother Sheikh Abu Naser, brother-in-law Abdur Rab Serniabat, nephew Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni, Moni's wife Arju Moni, Shahid Serniabat, Baby Serniabat, Arif Serniabat, Sukanto Abdullah Babu, Security officer Colonel Jamil Uddin Ahmed and Abdul Noim Khan Rinto were also killed during the world's most heinous terrorism. Bangabandhu's daughters, incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived the Carnage as they were in Germany at that time.

The hyenas did not even spare the life of Bangabandhu's nine year old minor son Sheikh Russel who was awarded a swarm of bullets on his soft chest when he cried out in fear of the horror and requested the killers to take him to his mother.

After 15 August 1975, there came another Cataclysmic event that struck Awami League very seriously and led

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to a temporary vacuum in the leadership: four national leaders, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M. Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman were killed in Dhaka Central Jail by the same conspirators who had killed Bangabandhu.

From that day, the Bangalees have been holding the shock in their hearts as a source of strength to take revenge of this barbaric assassination by fulfilling the dream of Bangabandhu who wanted to turn Bangladesh into Sonar Bangla, a peaceful abode of teeming millions in this part of the world. Under the dynamic, Courageous and Charismatic leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of this territory brought the glowing sun of the independence breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years. The Bangalees have gotten their own nation-state, flag and national anthem.

Bangabandhu was killed at a time when he had undertaken an arduous task of building of Golden Bangla reconstructing the war-ravaged country and unifying the whole nation. The defeated forces of the liberation war made abortive attempts to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangalee nation. Their target was to destroy the secular democratic fabric of Bangladesh. The killers were able to assassinate Bangabandhu but they could not erase his dreams and ideas. The ideals of Bangabandhu's long struggle of sacrifice are implanted in the heart of Bangalee Nation.

The day is a public holiday. The government and different socio, cultural, political and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programs to observed the day with due solemnity including discussions, poetry recitation session, child-juvenile painting competition, photographic exhibition, tree plantation and distribution of cooked food among the destitute. On the day, the national flag will fly at half-mast at all government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, educational institutions, private buildings and Bangladesh missions abroad.

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Portrait credit: Md. S. Islam

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## Bangladesh Prime Minister stresses on connectivity among countries for peace

Underscoring the need of ensuring smooth connectivity among all the countries and communities, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 15, 2016 said that connectivity should be taken as a 'strategic opportunity' to secure peace, stability and prosperity. She said, *"Connectivity is indeed no longer a 'choice' for any community, it's about seizing 'strategic opportunity,'* while speaking at the Plenary 2 of 11th Asian Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit in Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar on its theme – '20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for Future Through Connectivity'.

The Prime Minister said, "Whatever be the modality of connectivity frameworks, these should aim to accelerate sustained, inclusive growth and sustainable development."

The PM added that at the turn of 20 years, ASEM reflects on deepening connectivity here in Mongolia in the wake of multiple transformations that "we are witnessing now".

Sheikh Hasina, who arrived Ulaanbaatar on July 14, 2016 to attend two-day Asia-Europe Summit, joined the inaugural session of the Summit held at Shangri-La Hotel. President of Mongolia Tsakhiazin Elbegdorj received Sheikh Hasina on her arrival at the summit venue. Hasina also noted that, "All the development initiatives need to be based on core values and principles like solidarity, friendship, mutual trust, and equitable sharing of benefits. Principles like 'sustainability' and 'responsible business conducts' increasingly shape manufacturing and service across our economies. Regional and global supply chains deepen our regional cooperative engagements."

Pointing to the advancement in multimodal connectivity among the countries in Asia-Pacific region, she said in South Asia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) and Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar – Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) are worth noting.

The Premier, however, mentioned that for connectivity to yield greater advantage and improvements in people's living and livelihoods for connectivity they need to seriously explore greater resources, further capabilities and newer partnerships.

Highlighting Bangladesh's progress in e-services, she said 4.5 million under-served citizens receive over 70 e-services from 5,300 Digital Centres across the country while around 43,000 government offices are connected under a single national e-portal. The Prime Minister hoped that ASEM would be able to bring greater result orientation on connectivity, especially under ASEM Working Group on Connectivity.

She met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni Silveri. The Bangladesh PM also talked to Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann and other world



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, left, is greeted by Mongolia's President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, right, as she arrives for the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on July 15, 2016. Photo: Reuters*

leaders. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, PM's Principal Secretary Abdul Kalam Azad, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haq, Bangladesh Ambassador to Mongolia Fazlul Karim and Bangladesh envoy to Belgium and EU Ismat Jahan were present. Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haq briefed reporters about the summit and bilateral meetings. PM press secretary Ihsanul Karim was also present.

The PM along with other heads of state and government joined Mongol Naadam festival at Chinggis Khaan Khuree tourist complex on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. Naadam Festival is a major Mongolian festival to experience the culture and people of Mongolia. The festival has its roots in the nomad wedding assemblies and hunting extravaganzas of the Mongol Army.

The PM appreciated excellent arrangements and gracious hospitality given to her and Bangladesh delegation to Mongolia saying, "the historic city is a silent witness to inter-connections between the east and the west, the north and the south."

**Source:** CEAF Desk report.

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*Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi addresses a plenary session titled "Capitalizing on the New Global Economic Reality". St. Petersburg, June 17, 2016.  
[Source: The SPIEF 2016 Photo Bank]*

## St. Petersburg International Economic Forum - 2016

**H.E. Alexander Ignotov**

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) is a major annual international economic and business event in Russia. Over the last decade, SPIEF has become a leading international platform for the discussion of the key economic issues facing Russia, emerging markets, and the world at large.



The 20th SPIEF was held on June 16-18 this year. It attracted more than 12,000 international and Russian participants, including government and business leaders from various economic powers, as well as representatives of civil society, academic and media circles.

Representative delegations from 130 countries, including Bangladesh, took part in the forum. Italy, the guest country of the 20th SPIEF, sent a big delegation to the Forum, headed by Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Italy Pavilion at the SPIEF showcased Italy's industrial potential, design and culture.

The event was visited by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Guinea Alpha Condé, Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and leaders of international organizations, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Delegations led by deputy heads of states and governments came from Belorussia, Burundi, Ghana, Guyana, China, Cuba, Luxemburg, Uruguay and Ecuador. Vice President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas Ruíz, Vice President of Uruguay Raúl Sendic, Vice President of Ghana Kwesi Amissah-Arthur, Second Vice President of Burundi Joseph Butore, and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Tigran Sargsyan took part in the Forum. About 30 countries were represented by high-level delegations led by ministers.

The official business programme of the Forum comprised over 100 events, including the B20 Regional Consultation Forum, the SCO Business Forum, the BRICS Business Forum, a session of the Valdai International Discussion Club, the Global Energy Prize Award Ceremony, Energy Company Summit (with the main topic "World Oil Market at Crossroads: Uncertainty Investments or Risk Management?"), a meeting with prominent academics and Nobel Prize winners, etc.



SPIEF-2016 in numbers	
•	12,000 participants
•	133 countries
•	1300 business companies
	356 official documents signed
	332 contracts worth 1 trillion 24 million rubles (about 15.5 billion USD)
•	300 events

The cultural programme organized for the guests of St. Petersburg was extremely rich. It included a total of 67 cultural, entertainment, and sporting events. One of the brightest cultural events of the SPIEF was the concert on Palace Square by Mariinsky Theatre Symphony Orchestra led by famous Russian conductor Valery Gergiev.

### Bangladesh Delegation at SPIEF

The Bangladesh delegation was headed by Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Honourable Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Abdul Matlub Ahmed, President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI). It also included S. M. Saiful Hoque, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Russian Federation, H. K. Kabir, President of the CIS-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hafizur Rahman Khan, President of the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB), Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, Chairman of the Textile Engineering Division, the Institution of Engineers of Bangladesh, and other businessmen.

On the final day of the Forum, "*Russia-Bangladesh: An Era of New Opportunities*" panel discussion was held at the SPIEF Congress Centre. FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmed acted as a moderator, while Finance Minister AMA Muhith was the keynote speaker.

A.M.A. Muhith underscored the importance of developing bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation between Russia and Bangladesh, spoke about the active steps of his government to strengthen economic ties with other countries and draw attention of potential investors to different sectors of Bangladesh economy, including infrastructure and agriculture. Bangladesh is a growing market and a wonderful place for investment, with business opportunities increasing very fast, he said. 'At the moment we in Bangladesh have what is called "demographic dividend" – a large young talented population who are interested and whose interest can be used', said the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Later, talking to journalists, A.M.A. Muhith said that Bangladesh is eager to cooperate with the Eurasian Economic Union.

Moderator of the panel discussion Abdul Matlub Ahmed said that it is time to renew Russia-Bangladesh relations, especially with St. Petersburg. In his address, H. K. Kabir, President of the CIS-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stressed the importance of the SPIEF as a great platform to introduce Bangladesh to Russia and said that it is necessary to participate in the event every year.

Ekaterina Lebedeva, Vice President of the Saint-Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, represented the Russian side at the meeting. According to her, the bilateral trade between Russia and Bangladesh needs to be developed not only quantitatively, but also in terms of quality. One of the problems is the lack of knowledge about each other. However, such fora like the SPIEF give an opportunity to bring bilateral economic relations to a new, higher, level and increase the amount of mutual investments, she said. Ekaterina Lebedeva highlighted the need to establish firm and long-lasting ties between middle level businessmen of the two countries and expressed her belief that the number of bilateral projects will rise.

Hafizur Rahman Khan, President of the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB), said that increasing bilateral import could be a great way of developing the economic relationship between the Russian and Bangladeshi nations, especially when Bangladesh is the second largest garment manufacturer in the world, while another huge opportunity is infrastructure investments.

During the visit of the Bangladesh delegation to St. Petersburg, Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith visited Leningrad Nuclear Power Plant. He was provided with the most detailed information about the work and modernization of the existing high-power channel-type reactors at the NPP, as well as about the construction of new VVER reactors which will substitute the old ones. After the trip, A.M.A. Muhith said that he had got convinced of the highest level of safety of the Leningrad Nuclear



Abul Maal Abdul Muhith (L), The Honourable Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Yekaterina Lebedeva, Vice President at Saint-Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, after a business roundtable discussion titled "*Russia-Bangladesh: An Era Of New Opportunities*" as part of the 20th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum at the ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Center in St. Petersburg, Russia, June 18, 2016. Mikhail Kireyev/TASS. Source: The SPIEF 2016 Photo Bank





Power Plant. The Minister admitted that he was amazed at the fact that the service life of the new generation energy blocks can be up to 90 years (60 years after construction and 30 years after modernization). Bangladesh is satisfied with the training of Bangladeshi specialists in Russia, he said.

### SPIEF Plenary Session

The Forum's key event was the plenary session '*Capitalizing on the New Global Economic Reality*' in which Russian President Vladimir Putin participated. He shared with the participants his assessments and thoughts on the current global agenda, especially his views on Russia's place in a changing world.

"Incidentally, geopolitical tensions are related, to some extent, to economic uncertainty and the exhausting of the old sources of growth. There is a risk it may increase or even be artificially provoked. It is our common interest to find a creative and constructive way out of this situation", he said. One of the risks is related to the attempts to secure or even monopolise the benefits of next generation technologies.

Russian President stressed the necessity to tackle global political and economic problems together. "...the technological, economic problems and the objective situation we are in – their scale and nature suggest that we can develop effectively only together, by building cooperation. We believe that such cooperation can be effectively built as part of a flexible and open integration environment that encourages competition in scientific research, a variety of technological solutions that allow the participating countries to fully employ their competence and their potential", - he said.

Speaking about successful integration process within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Vladimir Putin told about plans to create common energy, oil and gas and financial markets by 2025. "We are deepening our integration gradually, and are removing obstacles to commerce and the movement of investment, technology and workforce. We are implementing an industrial and technological cooperation programme already, and are forming a common service market incrementally. Common energy, oil and gas and financial markets will emerge by 2025". "We are aware of the impressive prospects of cooperation between the EAEU and other countries and integration associations. Over 40 states and international organisations have expressed the desire to establish a free trade zone with the Eurasian Economic Union. Our partners and we think that the EAEU can become one of the centres of a greater emergent integration area. Among other benefits, we can address ambitious technological problems within its framework, promote technological progress and attract new members. We discussed this in Astana quite recently. Now we propose considering the prospects for more extensive Eurasian partnership involving the EAEU and countries with which we already have close partnership – China, India, Pakistan and Iran – and certainly our CIS partners, and other interested countries and associations", the President added.

Vladimir Putin came up with an idea of the "greater Eurasia" project which would be open for Europe. "Despite all of the well-known problems in our relations, the European Union remains Russia's key trade and economic partner. It is our next-door neighbour and we are not indifferent to what is happening in the lives of our neighbours, European countries and the European economy", he said.

"Russia has managed to resolve the most urgent current problems in the economy. We hope growth will resume in the near future," he stressed.

Answering a question by Plenary Session moderator, CNN host Fareed Zakaria about "settling into a low-grade, lower-level cold war between the West and Russia", Vladimir Putin said, "I do not want to believe that we are moving towards another Cold War, and I am sure nobody wants this. We certainly do not. There is no need for this". However, the Russian President draw attention to the unilateral withdrawal [of the US] from the ABM Treaty, NATO's expanding towards Russia's borders, the West's support for colour revolutions, including the so-called Arab Spring, which led only to chaos.

Vladimir Putin stated, "if this policy of unilateral actions continues and if steps in the international arena that are very sensitive to the international community are not coordinated then such consequences are inevitable. Conversely, if we listen to one another and seek out a balance of interests, this will not happen. Yes, it is a difficult process, the process of reaching agreement, but it is the only path to acceptable solutions. I believe that if we ensure such cooperation, there will be no talk of a cold war. After all, since the Arab Spring, they have already approached our borders. Why did they have to support the coup in Ukraine? I have often spoken about this. The internal political situation there is complicated and the opposition that is in power now would most likely have come to power democratically, through elections. That's it. We would have worked with them as we had with the government that was in power before President Yanukovich. But no, they had to proceed with a coup, casualties, unleash bloodshed, a civil war, and scare the Russian-speaking population of southeastern Ukraine and Crimea".



*Hafizur Rahman Khan, President of the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB), Abdul Matlub Ahmed, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, The Honourable Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Yekaterina Lebedeva, Vice President at Saint-Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and H. K. Kabir (L-R), President of the CIS-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attend a business roundtable discussion titled "Russia–Bangladesh: An Era Of New Opportunities" as part of the 20th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum at the ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Center in St. Petersburg, Russia, June 18, 2016. Mikhail Kireyev/TASS. Source: The SPIEF 2016 Photo Bank*

On the Ukraine crisis, Vladimir Putin said that the political solution to it lies in implementing the Minsk Agreements. He said, "Constitutional amendments that had to be adopted by the end of 2015. But where are they? They are now here to be seen. The law on a special status of these territories, which we call "unrecognized republics", should have been put into practice. The law has been passed by the country's parliament but still hasn't come into effect. There should have been an amnesty law. It was passed by the Ukrainian parliament but was never signed by the president, it has no effect. What kind of elections are we talking about? What sort of election process can be organised during an anti-terrorist operation? Do any countries do that? We do not talk about it, but does any other country hold election campaigns when an anti-terrorist operation is taking place on its territory? They [elections] have to be cancelled and our work should focus on economic and humanitarian restoration. Nothing is being done,

nothing at all. Postponing these problems over on-going violence on the frontlines is just an excuse. What is happening in reality is that both sides are accusing each other of opening fire. Why do you think it is separatists who are shooting? If you ask them, they say, "It is Ukrainian government forces, the Ukrainian army." One side opens fire, the other side responds – that's what exchanging fire means. Do you think this is a good enough reason to delay political reforms? On the contrary, political reforms that will constitute the foundation of a final settlement on security are a pressing priority. Some things have to be done in parallel. I agree with Mr Poroshenko that the OSCE mission has to be reinforced to the point of authorizing OSCE observers to carry firearms. Other things can be done to improve security. But we cannot afford to continue putting off key political decision by citing the lack of security in the area".

About Syria, the Russian President once again stressed that fighting terrorists is of primary importance there. "The point is to ensure the confidence of the entire society and trust between different parts of this society, and to establish on this foundation a modern and efficient government that will be trusted by the country's entire population. And political negotiations are the only road to this. We have urged this more than once. President al-Assad also spoke about this – he accepts this process. What needs to be done today? It is necessary to join more actively the process of forming the new Constitution and to conduct, on this basis, future elections, both presidential and parliamentary. When President al-Assad was in Moscow, we spoke about this with him and he fully agreed with this", the President said.

The SPIEF has traditionally served as a venue for discussing strategic issues. Such conversation is all the more important now that the world is undergoing a serious transformation, when deep changes are affecting practically all areas of life. This year, the Forum has once again confirmed its reputation as one of the largest, most respected, and desperately needed platforms in the world for direct and open discussion between representatives of the state, the business community, academia, and the expert circles from around the world of the current challenges facing the global economy. The next event of a similar scale, organized in Russia, will be the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in early September.

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**His Excellency Alexander Igotov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.**



## Chinese premier wins backing over South China Sea at ASEM Summit

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's effort to promote China's stance on the South China Sea issue received broad support during the 11th Asian-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Li said on July 16, 2016 before he returned to China that the South China Sea arbitration award will have no impact on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime interests.

Speaking in an informal meeting during the summit, Li said, "the South China Sea issue should not be

subject to multilateral discussions from the very beginning, or be included in the summit's agenda. But since certain countries commented on the issue, it is thus necessary for China to come out to clarify its stance and spell out the truth."

Li said, "China has never participated in the arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines, adding that his country neither accepts nor acknowledges the so-called arbitration award. By doing so, we are both exercising our rights in accordance with international law, and safeguarding the dignity of international law. Under no circumstance the arbitration award will exert any impact on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea."

The Chinese premier said China remains committed to settling the South China Sea disputes via dialogue and consultation with countries directly involved on the basis of historical facts and in accordance with international law, so as to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

This is the first time the Chinese premier has made an open statement on the South China Sea issue at an international forum following the South China Sea arbitration award issued on July 12, 2016. Li did not include the issue in his keynote speech at the start of the two-day summit. However, faced with certain nations' attempts to stir up tension and interfere in the South China Sea issue in the summit, Li expounded China's stance of non-acceptance of and non-participation in the arbitration proceedings, as part of his diplomatic offensive.

In a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc Thursday, Li said the South China Sea issue should be solved through bilateral negotiations between relevant parties in line with historical facts, international law and the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). He told Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen that China will work with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to protect regional peace and stability as well as the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Li's toughest remarks were directed at Japan, which, according to a Chinese diplomat that demanded anonymity, had sought in vain to include the arbitration case into the chair's statement of the summit. Tokyo, not a state directly involved in the South China Sea issue, should thus stop hyping up and interfering in the South China Sea issue and



*Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (C, front) delivers a speech during the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, July 15, 2016. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)*



"exercise caution in its own words and deeds," Li told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in a meeting at the latter's request. The Chinese premier's statements have been keenly received and won the backing from a number of Asian and European heavyweight leaders.

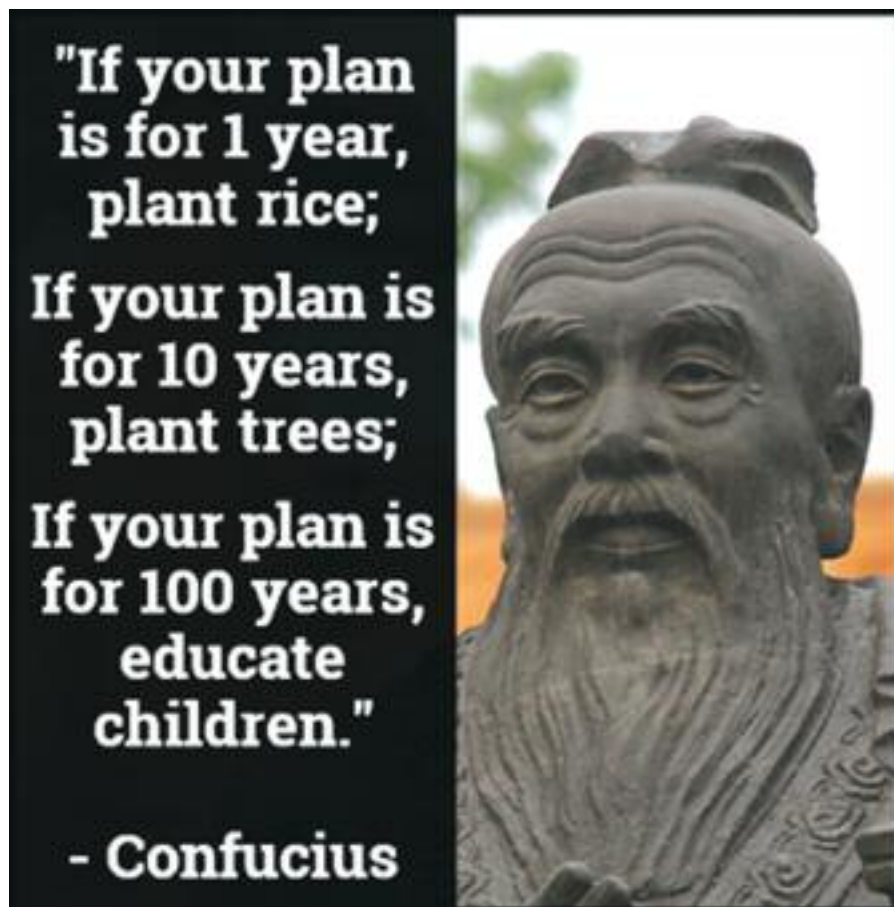
In the meeting with Li, Vietnam's Nguyen Xuan Phuc said his nation respects China's stance on the arbitration, adding that the disputes should be solved peacefully through negotiations. Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith said on the same day that Laos supports China's stance over the South China Sea issue, and stands ready to work with China to maintain peace and stability in the region. Their words were echoed by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who said that his country supports settlement of the South China Sea disputes through dialogue and consultation between countries directly concerned.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev also said Russia opposes the internationalization of the South China Sea disputes or any interference by the forces outside the region. Russia supports China's principles on resolving the disputes, Medvedev said. He called for bilateral negotiations and consultations between directly relevant parties to solve the issue.

According to the anonymous Chinese diplomat, a vast number of countries "expressed understanding of China's stance in difference forms" and "accepted our stance on dispute settlement via dialogue and consultation." A Chinese Diplomat noted that, "we realize that the real threat in front of us is terrorism. There are neither wars nor conflicts in the South China Sea. Only a volatile South China Sea would threaten regional peace and stability. Our 'friends circle' on the South China Sea issue seems to be getting bigger and bigger."

**Source:** The article published at The People's Daily online (English) and Xinhua on July 17, 2016.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES





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**“Our Independence was ignited by the same idealism that fuelled our struggle for freedom. No wonder then that former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee called India and the US ‘*natural allies*’.”**

*Highlights of the speech by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the joint session of US Congress at the US Capitol in Washington DC on June 8, 2016.*

I am deeply honoured by the invitation to address this Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker for opening the doors of this magnificent Capital.

This temple of democracy has encouraged and empowered other democracies the world over.

It manifests the spirit of this great nation, which in Abraham Lincoln's words, "was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

In granting me this opportunity, you have honoured the world's largest democracy and its 1.25 billion people.

As a representative of world's largest democracy, it is indeed a privilege to speak to the leaders of its oldest.

I began my visit by going to the Arlington National Cemetery -the final resting place of many brave soldiers of this great land.

I honoured their courage and sacrifice for the ideals of freedom and democracy.

It was also the seventy-second Anniversary of the D-Day.

On that day, thousands from this great country fought to protect the torch of liberty on the remote shores of a land that they did not know.

They sacrificed their lives so that the world lives in freedom.

I applaud ...India applauds, the great sacrifices of the men and women from 'The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave' in service of mankind.

India knows what this means because our soldiers too have fallen in distant battlefields for the same ideals.

That is why the threads of freedom and liberty form a strong bond between our two democracies.

Our nations may have been shaped by differing histories, cultures, and faiths.

Yet, our belief in democracy for our nations and liberty for our countrymen is common. The idea that all citizens are created equal is a central pillar of the American constitution. Our founding fathers too shared the same belief and sought individual liberty for every citizen of India.

There were many who doubted India when, as a newly independent nation, we reposed our faith in democracy. Indeed, wagers were made on our failure. But, the people of India did not waver. Our founders created a modern nation with freedom, democracy, and equality as the essence of its soul. And, in doing so, they ensured that we con-



*Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a joint meeting of Congress at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. AFP*



tinued to celebrate our age old diversity.

Today, across its streets and institutions, in its villages and cities, anchored in equal respect for all faiths; and in the melody of hundreds of its languages and dialects.

India lives as one; India grows as one; India celebrates as one.

Modern India is in its 70th year.

For my government, the Constitution is its real holy book. And, in that holy book, freedom of faith, speech and franchise, and equality of all citizens, regardless of background, are enshrined as fundamental rights. 800 million of my countrymen may exercise the freedom of franchise once every five years. But, all the 1.25 billion of our citizens have freedom from fear, a freedom they exercise every moment of their lives. Engagement between our democracies has been visible in the manner in which our thinkers impacted one another, and shaped the course of our societies. Thoreau's idea of civil disobedience influenced our political thoughts. And, similarly the call by the great sage of India Swami Vivekananda to embrace humanity was most famously delivered in Chicago.

Gandhi's non-violence inspired the heroism of Martin Luther King.

Today, a mere distance of 3 miles separates the Martin Luther King memorial at Tidal Basin from the statue of Gandhi at Massachusetts Avenue.

This proximity of their memorials in Washington mirrors the closeness of ideals and values they believed in.

The genius of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was nurtured in the years he spent at the Columbia University a century ago.

The impact of the U.S. constitution on him was reflected in his drafting of the Indian constitution some three decades later. Our independence was ignited by the same idealism that fuelled your struggle for freedom. No wonder then that former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee called India and the U.S. 'natural allies'. No wonder that the shared ideals and common philosophy of freedom shaped the bedrock of our ties. No wonder then, that President Obama has called our ties the defining partnership of the 21st century.

More than fifteen years ago, Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee stood here and gave a call to step out of the 'shadow of hesitation' of the past. The pages of our friendship since then tell a remarkable story. Today, our relationship has overcome the hesitations of history. Comfort, candour and convergence define our conversations. Through the cycle of elections and transitions of Administrations the intensity of our engagements has only grown. And, in this exciting journey, the U.S. Congress has acted as its compass. You helped us turn barriers into bridges of partnership. In the fall of 2008, when the Congress passed the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, it changed the very colours of leaves of our relationship. We thank you for being there when the partnership needed you the most. You have also stood by us in times of sorrow. India will never forget the solidarity shown by the U.S. Congress when terrorists from across our border attacked Mumbai in November of 2008.

And for this, we are grateful.

I am informed that the working of the U.S. Congress is harmonious. I am also told that you are well-known for your bipartisanship. Well, you are not alone. Time and again, I have also witnessed a similar spirit in the Indian Parliament, especially in our Upper House. So, as you can see, we have many shared practices.

As this country knows well, every journey has its pioneers. Very early on, they shaped a development partnership even when the meeting ground was more limited. The genius of Norman Borlaug brought the Green Revolution and food security to India. The excellence of the American Universities nurtured Institutes of Technology and Management in India. And, I could go on. Fast forward to today. The embrace of our partnership extends to the entirety of human endeavour-from the depths of the oceans to the vastness of the space. Our S&T collaboration continues to help us in cracking the age-old problems in the fields of public health, education, food, and agriculture. Ties of commerce and investment are flourishing. We trade more with the U.S. than with any other nation. And, the flow of goods, services and capital between us generates jobs in both our societies. As in trade, so in defense. India exercises with the United States more than we do with any other partner. Defense purchases have moved from almost zero to ten billion dollars in less than a decade. Our cooperation also secures our cities and citizens from terrorists, and protects our critical infrastructure from cyber threats. Civil Nuclear Cooperation, as I told President Obama yesterday, is a reality.

Our people to people links are strong; and there is close cultural connect between our societies. SIRI tells us that India's ancient heritage of Yoga has over 30 million practitioners in the US. It is estimated that more Americans bend for yoga than to throw a curve ball.



And, no Mr. Speaker, we have not yet claimed intellectual property right on Yoga. Connecting our two nations is also a unique and dynamic bridge of three million Indian Americans. Today, they are among your best CEOs; academics; astronauts; scientists; economists; doctors; even spelling bee champions.

They are your strength. They are also the pride of India. They symbolize the best of both our societies. My understanding of your great country began long before I entered public office. Long before assuming office, I travelled coast to coast, covering more than 25 States of America. I realized then that the real strength of the U.S. was in the dreams of its people and the boldness of their ambitions.

Today, Mr. Speaker, a similar spirit animates India.

Our 800 million youth, especially, are particularly impatient. India is undergoing a profound social and economic change. A billion of its citizens are already politically empowered. My dream is to economically empower them through many social and economic transformations. And, do so by 2022, the seventy-fifth anniversary of India's independence. My to-do list is long and ambitious. But you will understand. It includes:

- *A vibrant rural economy with robust farm sector;*
- *A roof over each head and electricity to all households;*
- *To skill millions of our youth;*
- *Build 100 smart cities;*
- *Have a broad band for a billion, and connect our villages to the digital world;*
- *And create a twenty-first century rail, road and port infrastructure.*

These are not just aspirations; they are goals to be reached in a finite time-frame. And, to be achieved with a light carbon foot print, with greater emphasis on renewables. In every sector of India's forward march, I see the U.S. as an indispensable partner. Many of you also believe that a stronger and prosperous India is in America's strategic interest. Let us work together to convert shared ideals into practical cooperation. There can be no doubt that in advancing this relationship, both nations stand to gain in great measure. As the U.S. businesses search for new areas of economic growth, markets for their goods, a pool of skilled resources, and global locations to produce and manufacture, India could be their ideal partner. India's strong economy, and growth rate of 7.6% per annum, is creating new opportunities for our mutual prosperity. Transformative American technologies in India and growing investment by Indian companies in the United States both have a positive impact on the lives of our citizens. Today, for their global research and development centres, India is the destination of choice for the U.S. companies. Looking eastward from India, across the Pacific, the innovation strength of our two countries comes together in California. Here, the innovative genius of America and India's intellectual creativity are working to shape new industries of the future. The 21st century has brought with it great opportunities. But, it also comes with its own set of challenges.

Inter-dependence is increasing. But, while some parts of the world are islands of growing economic prosperity; other are mired in conflicts. In Asia, the absence of an agreed security architecture creates uncertainty. Threats of terror are expanding, and new challenges are emerging in cyber and outer-space. And, global institutions conceived in 20th century, seem unable to cope with new challenges or take on new responsibilities. In this world full of multiple transitions and economic opportunities; growing uncertainties and political complexities; existing threats and new challenges; our engagement can make a difference by promoting:

- *Cooperation not dominance;*
- *Connectivity not isolation;*
- *Respect for Global Commons;*
- *Inclusive not exclusive mechanisms; and above all*
- *Adherence to international rules and norms.*

India is already assuming her responsibilities in securing the Indian Ocean region. A strong India-U.S. partnership can anchor peace, prosperity and stability from Asia to Africa and from Indian Ocean to the Pacific. It can also help ensure security of the sea lanes of commerce and freedom of navigation on seas. But, the effectiveness of our cooperation would increase if international institutions framed with the mindset of the 20th century were to reflect the realities of today.

Before arriving in Washington D.C., I had visited Herat in Western Afghanistan to inaugurate Afghan-India Friendship Dam, a 42 MW hydro-electric project built with Indian assistance. I was also there on the Christmas day last year to dedicate to that proud nation its Parliament, a testimony to our democratic ties. Afghans naturally recognize that the sacrifices



of American have helped create a better life. But, your contribution in keeping the region safe and secure is deeply appreciated even beyond. India too has made an enormous contribution and sacrifices to support our friendship with Afghan people. A commitment to rebuild a peaceful, and stable and prosperous Afghanistan our shared objective. Yet, Distinguished Members, not just in Afghanistan, but elsewhere in South Asia, and globally, terrorism remains the biggest threat. In the territory stretching from West of India's border to Africa, it may go by different names, from Lashkar-e-Taiba, to Taliban to ISIS. But, it's philosophy is common: of hate, murder and violence. Although it's shadow is spreading across the world, it is incubated in India's neighbourhood. I commend the members of the U.S. Congress for sending a clear message to those who preach and practice terrorism for political gains. Refusing to reward them is the first step towards holding them accountable for their actions. The fight against terrorism has to be fought at many levels. And, the traditional tools of military, intelligence or diplomacy alone would not be able to win this fight. We have both lost civilians and soldiers in combating it. The need of the hour is for us to deepen our security cooperation. And, base it on a policy:

- *That isolates those who harbour, support and sponsor terrorists;*
- *That does not distinguish between "good" and "bad" terrorists; and that delinks religion from terrorism.*

Also, for us to succeed, those who believe in humanity must come together to fight for it as one, and speak against this menace in one voice. Terrorism must be delegitimized. The benefits of our partnership extend not just to the nations and regions that need it most. On our own, and by combining our capacities, we are also responding to other global challenges including when disaster strikes and where humanitarian relief is needed. Far from our shores, we evacuated thousands from Yemen, Indians, Americans and others. Nearer home, we were the first responders during Nepal's earthquake, in the Maldives water crisis and most recently during landslide in Sri Lanka. We are also one of the largest contributors of troops to UN Peace Keeping Operations. Often, India and the U.S. have combined their strengths in science, technology and innovation to help fight hunger, poverty, diseases and illiteracy in different parts of the world. The success of our partnership is also opening up new opportunities for learning, security and development from Asia to Africa. And, the protection of environment and caring for the planet is central to our shared vision of a just world. For us in India, to live in harmony with mother earth is part of our ancient belief. And, to take from nature only what is most essential is part of our civilizational ethos. Our partnership, therefore, aims to balance responsibilities with capabilities. And, it also focuses on new ways to increase the availability and use of renewable energy. A strong U.S. support for our initiative to form an International Solar Alliance is one such effort. We are working together not just for a better future for ourselves, but for the whole world. This has also been the goal of our efforts in G-20, East Asia Summit and Climate Change summits.

As we deepen our partnership, there would be times when we would have differing perspectives. But, since our interests and concerns converge, the autonomy in decision making and diversity in our perspectives can only add value to our partnership. So, as we embark on a new journey, and seek new goals, let us focus not just on matters routine but transformational ideas. Ideas which can focus:

- *Not just on creating wealth but also creating value for our societies;*
- *Not just on immediate gains but also long term benefits;*
- *Not just on sharing best practices but also shaping partnerships; and*
- *Not just on building a bright future for our peoples, but in being a bridge to a more united, humane and prosperous world.*

And, important for the success of this journey would be a need to view it with new eyes and new sensitivities. When we do this, we will realise the full promise of this extraordinary relationship. Mr. Speaker, My final thoughts and words would reiterate that our relationship is primed for a momentous future. The constraints of the past are behind us and foundations of the future are firmly in place.

In the lines of Walt Whitman,

"The Orchestra have sufficiently tuned their instruments, the baton has given the signal."

And to that, if I might add, there is a new symphony in play.

Thank you very much.

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**Courtesy:** The Indian Express.



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## Message by H.E. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on the Occasion of the 51st Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Maldives



On the occasion of the 51st Anniversary of Independence I wish to convey heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to all the Maldivians residing in Bangladesh.

This year marks the 38th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and I take stock of the close bilateral cooperation that has developed between our two governments and the peoples of our two countries

There is now more trade between the two countries. With the establishment of a direct air-link by the national carrier Maldivian, it has now become easier for people from both countries to travel for work, business, studies, and leisure.

On the economic front, a significant number of Bangladeshis are contributing to our development programmes through working in crucial sectors such as construction, tourism and agriculture, bridging acute skills gaps in our country.

Cooperation and exchange of skilled workers will indeed be a mark of the new partnership that will evolve within the SAARC framework – that of sharing skills and resources in the region; and Bangladesh is in a position to provide such skilled resources to the region.

Bilaterally the Maldives and Bangladesh have entered into mutual agreements on several vital sectors of the Maldivian economy. With the significant gains in economic development achieved by both our countries, a concerted effort is needed to explore new areas of cooperation and to increase trade, commerce and investment.

Both the Maldives and Bangladesh have common goals and aspirations. Both are countries that have set accelerated economic and social development programmes and targets for socio-economic development and enhanced living standards of their peoples.

On the international front, the Maldives and Bangladesh have collaborated on crucial issues that affect both countries directly. Most important of all are the issues related to climate change and sea-level rise.

The changing weather patterns and increasing frequency of natural disasters have affected more than ever before, low-lying countries such as the Maldives and low-lying and coastal areas in Bangladesh. Countries with limited resources are faced with an imminent and grave danger where adaptation and mitigation measures become a real challenge. Hence, both our countries have collaborated and joined hands in the international arena to combat the adverse impact of climate change.

I wish for continued economic progress and increased prosperity for both our countries and the South Asian region.

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# Trump-a new phenomenon in US politics

**Barrister Harun ur Rashid**



Donald Trump has been a new phenomenon in US politics. His rise is based on his personality and popularism.

Donald Trump inherited business and property from his father and he has been raised by a wealthy family. His mother was from Scotland and therefore he has blood from Scotland and US.

His temperament is mercurial and when attacked he brings out his worst instincts in criticising or insulting others, even referring to personal features or bodies. He does not spare anyone-even women, disabled people Mexicans, and Afro-Americans. He used to question as to whether President Obama was born in the US and believed that he was born in Kenya and has been a Muslim.

He is a real estate developer, is known to have \$4.8 billion and owns a 68-storied building Trump Tower in a fashionable avenue in Manhattan, New York, He has a few personal planes, golf resorts and is known to have a big mansion in Florida. He used to conduct a reality show in the TV for entrepreneurship and "You are fired" became the hall mark of the show for unsuccessful candidates. Miss Universe is an annual international beauty pageant used to be run by Trump. Through these TV shows, he became well-known in the US and outside.

As a wealthy person, what he wants now power and prestige. As a businessman he has to deal with powerful persons/authority to make a deal but now he wants to be on the other side of the table to approve the deal. He tried in the past a few times to be the presidential nominee but luck did not favour him.

To get into power is a fascinating transformation of a wealthy businessmen. For example, New Zealand Prime Minister is the richest person in the country and made money as an investment banker. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has been one of the richest persons in the country and entered politics only at the age of 50 after having been a very successful businessman and investment banker. There are instances in other countries that wealthy businessmen aspire to enjoy power. Power acts as an elixir and addiction.

The US has gone through rough time in economy because of greed and selfishness of the corporate leaders. The Year 2008 saw the disappearance of many prestigious investment banks and the government had to bail them out. The man on the street was angry because it was not their fault or activities that brought the companies to become bankrupt but the unprofessional decisions of the leaders of the corporate world (Wall Street).

Furthermore President George Bush commenced two wars -Afghanistan and Iraq- depleting money and men of his country. The wars did not bring benefit for the US, rather its impact has been disruptive in the Middle East and empowered Iran as a regional leader. Post-Saddam Iraq has been under active influence of Iran and this demonstrates how US foreign policy went astray in the region by policies pursued by neo-conservatives who believed that military might could solve everything. The American people are frustrated with the economy, conduct of politicians and trust on politicians has gone" like the wind".

Such depressive domestic environment in the US has been a great factor for Trump because ordinary people in the US are angry with the both sides of professional politicians.

Trump has been a great communicator and speaks in a language understood by all even blue-collar workers. Often politicians do not say many things which are not politically correct but Trump does not bother whether his remarks offend the persons or not. He does not care and this trait has been a boon for him rather a liability. Media loves him because it gets publicity, Publicity in turn sells and brings profit. Fox news has reportedly gained by providing ample time to Trump for his views.

He raised issues, such as jobs, immigration, building a wall on Mexico border at Mexican expenses, banning Muslims in the US, terminating the Paris Climate deal, reintroduce fossil fuel in the US, revising trade deal with Japan, China and South Korea. He advocates higher tariffs for importing goods from abroad and wants to halt the transfer of companies to foreign countries from the US.



Ordinary people do not understand that economy has been globalised and no country can afford to pursue protectionist policy. Furthermore technology has changed the conduct of business and trade

Speed and innovation has been the hallmark for a successful trading country. Who could have expected that China will be the second largest global economy defeating Japan. At one time mining, steel production and shipbuilding were the backbones of British economy but now these sectors have disappeared and instead services, banking, technology and other innovative engineering products have become the pillars of British economy. No British company manufacture cars and they are produced in Britain by foreign companies.

Trump does not realise, according to economists, that Trump's trade and commercial policies of protectionism are unlikely to be workable in the current environment of globalised economy and within the rules of WTO. Rather the global trade will face instability and downturn adversely affecting the whole world, especially at a time when the global economic environment is going through a rough period.

China is in trouble economically and no one expected such scenario and the commodity prices fell. There is no doubt that China's ongoing growth slowdown has had far-reaching effects on the global economy. ... To be sure, there is a clear correlation between Chinese GDP growth and commodity prices. Many exporting countries to China have witnessed sharp drop in their sales and in turn suffered.

Many believe that Trump's policy would be so disastrous that even its suggestion is dangerous. As Josh Barro explained, this wouldn't just represent a historic default, putting the U.S. in the position of a country like Greece or Argentina; it could also spark an international financial crisis, as "investors would cease to see Treasuries as a safe asset and demand higher interest rates in exchange for risk."

Trump has promised to make America great again. But a closer look his policy proposals, according to experts, suggests that within his first few years as president, he would more likely make American recessionary again.

Europe is going through a difficult transition period after the economy has been hit hard and migrants have become a destabilising factor.

Brexit is another issue which has alarmed many Europeans. Right wing and anti-immigration parties in Poland, Denmark, Hungary have captured power. It is on the rise in France and Germany. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has become unpopular for her liberal migration policy. The right-wing candidate for the President of Austria has recently been narrowly defeated.

Trump's so-called foreign policy is also unworkable because the US has to have the support of the allies in its implementation of the policy. Under his plan, NATO will be weakened. The policy of negotiation enunciated by Trump with North Korea will be a non-starter because Japan and South Korea will not support it. Trump's policy toward Saudi Arabia, Iran and other Middle East countries are not thought through, according to experts. Trump's policy towards Russia is unlikely to be shared by European powers.

This part of century has been exciting with technological advancement and the whole world has been in the cusp of human beings via smart phones. Even the gravitational waves from cosmos indicating dark energy, black holes and possible existence of other planets have provided us new frontier of knowledge—multi-universe.

At this point of time of advancement of technology and globalisation, the rise of Donald Trump with no clear-cut policy-economic or foreign- as the final nominee for the US President is a puzzle to many inside and outside the US. Many donors are known to be reluctant to provide money for the Donald Trump who is finally nominated as the US Presidential Candidate from the Republican Party in a grand party convention held in Cleveland on July 18, 2016.

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*Barrister Harun ur Rashid, Former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Geneva.*





# US elections and us

Shahriar Feroze



8<sup>th</sup> November - yeah, that's the date when the United States of America goes to the 58<sup>th</sup> quadrennial U.S. presidential election. No national election draws such immense global attention like the US elections. We in Bangladesh, like the rest of the world are holding our breath, but the actual fear for us lay somewhere else. The Donald or Mrs. Clinton, whoever wins, the outcome would somehow influence us. More specifically, in our case the prevailing unseen fear is about the US's immigration reforms followed by its future trade and foreign policies. So far three of Trump's core principles regarding immigration have already sent shivers to the many developing countries and Bangladesh is not an exception in this regard. Therefore, the headache is actually - would the Donald be friendly with the expat and immigrant Bangladeshi Americans, and of course would he be beneficial for us.

As per official records Bangladeshi immigrants have arrived in the United States in large numbers since the early 1970s to become one of the fastest growing ethnic communities there. According to the 2000 US Census, there are some 57,000 Bangladeshis in the United States but the actual figure is much bigger and more interestingly during the 90's the Bangladeshi population was the fastest growing Asian American subgroup in the United States. Concurrently, the country's engagement with America's joint efforts to combat terrorism has grown significantly. Moreover, Bangladesh is a key US strategic partner in South Asia. As one of our major development partner the US is also on the economic front too. As of now, American companies are currently the largest foreign direct investors in Bangladesh. Trailing the boost in morale in 2013 the U.S. direct investment in Bangladesh has today stands near the mark \$half a billion - an increase of 12.6 percent previously. Most importantly, the US is one of our most globally important export destinations, worth over \$ 6 billion and increasing..... so the upcoming elections on the November 8 matters to us beyond any doubts.

Sitting in here, we may not be direct voters but our expat, legal and illegal immigrant countrymen are worried in case of hard-hitting immigration reforms. It has been widely observed that when politicians there talk about "immigration reform" they mean: amnesty, cheap labour and open borders and the real trump-fear lays there. If, Mr. Trump however, believes in Real immigration reform, he should prioritise the working people first - not wealthy globetrotting donors. And the working people in the US massively constitutes of foreign immigrants which his opponent Mrs. Clinton has correctly understood by defining the US as a nation of immigrants. For us the point is whoever the winner, whether he or she would be our true friends.

By linking immigrants to crime, the Donald by now has appeared more of a villain, but the pre and post election phases of politicians have changed many times for the better. Weren't we overwhelmingly fearful about the Bangladeshis living in India, when Mr.Modi came to power there? But if you follow the post election phase, the Indian premiere's outlook toward Bangladesh had quickly changed for the better in some respects. An age old disputed land-boundary treaty was finally resolved. We believe, whoever comes to power to lead America in the coming days for the next four years, would be for our better and not worse. The next leader of the free world should surely know, when a ship starts leaking, the first priority is to plug the leak, not open new ones.

Though Hillary Clinton remains the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination but till the time of writing she had not yet pulled away from her socialist opponent. Given the tradition of all past US elections, it is impossible to know whether these early trends will hold through the rest of the primaries, and it is perhaps this suspense of uncertainty which keeps us spellbind. This also is another positive exhilaration of true democracy which we hugely miss here. In a genuine democracy, no one knows the winner till the final ballot is opened and counted, whereas in Bangladesh everyone is clearly informed of the winner beforehand.

America's media and political junkies are consumed by the various possibilities and we too are being spoon-fed by them. However, the bottom-line is like any civilised and ethical nation we want the most appropriate person to be announced



*Newlyweds Donald Trump Sr. and Melania Trump with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bill Clinton at their reception held at The Mar-a-Lago Club in January 22, 2005 in Palm Beach, Florida.*

Both the candidates differing enormously on many key issues know well that they are spot on and the sheer thrill to be a part of this uncertainty are keeping us on tensed moments.

Finally, this piece is not written with the aim to discuss scholarly issues, assumptions or pre-poll statistics, but simply say-so - America is so important for us.

True, we Bangladeshis differ with many American policies and decisions but the truth – many may differ – a weak America, in many ways weakens us too. Step out from US politics and remember what happened when the wall-street crashed many years ago. Regarding elections, remember what the late Abraham Lincoln said - *Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.*

The Americans should act accordingly, and we believe they know it in advance.

Only that we in Bangladesh would like to see it materialised on their terms.

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**Shahriar Feroze** is a freelance journalist

## Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang vows synergy with South Asian nations



Vice-Premier Wang Yang stressed that China wants to enhance cooperation with Maldives, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos as he met with leaders of the South Asian countries here on June 12, 2016.

The leaders were attending the opening ceremony of the Fourth China-South Asia Exposition in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province. About 5000 enterprises from 89 countries and regions participated the expo and fair.

Wang told Maldives President Abdulla Yameen's special envoy Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed, speaker of the People's Majlis, that China is willing to synergize the two countries' development strategies under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. China and Maldives can deepen economic, trade and investment cooperation, further promote negotiation on bilateral free trade agreement, push forward collaboration in infrastructure

construction as well as boost tourism cooperation.

When meeting with Nepal's Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Wang stressed that China is willing to work with Nepal to steadily push forward bilateral cooperation in transport, free trade, inter-connectivity, energy and other areas.

Wang told Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung that China stands ready to work with Vietnam to fully implement the important consensus reached by the two countries' leaders, enhance strategic communication, promote cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, border trade, finance and other areas.

Wang said, China wants a balanced and sustainable trade ties with Vietnam and calling on the two neighbors to expand people-to-people exchanges.

When meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Nam Hong, Wang called on both countries to maintain high-level contact, link development strategies, enhance cooperation in industrial capacity, infrastructure, agriculture, culture, education, health care, tourism and other fields.

Wang told Lao Deputy Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone that both sides can strengthen high-level communication and exchanges of governing experience, push forward cooperation in industrial capacity, investment, economic cooperation zones, infrastructure and promote local-level ties.

Source: Xinhua



The Fourth China-South Asia Exposition & the 24th China Kunming Import & Export Fair opens in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, June 12, 2016. About 5,000 enterprises from 89 countries and regions participated the expo and fair.

[Photo: Xinhua/Lin Yiguang]





**Ms. Park Geun-hye**, President of the Republic of Korea

**Country Name:**

conventional long form: Republic of Korea

conventional short form: South Korea

local long form: Taehan-min'guk

local short form: Han'guk

abbreviation: ROK

**Capital:** Seoul

**Currency:** South Korean won

**Background:** An independent kingdom for much of its long history, Korea was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 following the Russo-Japanese War. In 1910, Tokyo formally annexed the entire Peninsula. Korea regained its independence following Japan's surrender to the US in 15 August 1945. This is the country's Liberation Day and national holiday. After World War II, a democracy-based government (Republic of Korea, ROK) was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a communist-style government was installed in the north (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK).

**Geography:**

**Location:** Strategically located at the center of Northeast Asia, southern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the East Sea (Sea of Japan) and the Yellow Sea.

**Total Area:** 100,284 sq km

**Border countries:** 237 km with North Korea

**Climate:** Temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer than winter; cold winters

**Terrain:** Mostly hills and mountains; wide coastal plains in west and south



*Seoul Street*



Natural resources: Coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead, hydropower potential

### People and Society:

Nationality: Korean(s)

Ethnic Makeup: Korean, more than 99%; homogeneous

Languages: Korean, English (widely taught in junior high and high school)

Major religion: Christian 31.6% (Protestant 24.0%, Catholic 7.6%), Buddhist 24.2%, other or unknown 0.9%, none 43.3% (2010)

Population: 51,619,330 (June, 2016)

Population Growth Rate: 0.14% (2015)

Sex Ratio at Birth: 1.07 male(s)/female

Life Expectancy at Birth: 80.04 years

Unemployment: 3.2% (2015)

Youth Unemployment (15-24 years): 9.3% (2013)

**Government:** The type of government in South Korea is presidential republic.

Local governments are divided into high level and low-level local governments. With the inclusion of Sejong Special Autonomous

City in July 2012, the number of high-level local governments was increased to seventeen (i.e. Seoul Special City, six metropolises, eight provinces, and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province). The number of low-level local governments stands at 227 (i.e. si/gun/gu)

**The constitution** of South Korea became effective on 17 July 1948; amended several times, last in 1987.

**Art and Culture:** The arts and culture of South Korea is rich and vibrant having a history of creative innovation in the field of painting, sculpture, music, dance, drama and literature. The contemporary South Korean culture derives much from the traditional Korean culture. However, since the division of Korea in 1948, South Koreans have developed a culture of their own which is different from North Korean culture. The arts and culture of South Korea has been greatly inspired by Confucianism and Buddhism which is evident in the style of architecture, housing, costumes, and beliefs. Koreans are very open to change and are fast catching up with international trends. Hallyu, the 'Korean Wave', refers to the growing interest in Korean pop and traditional culture across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americans.

**South Korean Art:** Buddhism has been a great source of inspiration for Korean artists and the examples of the outstanding Korean artwork and architecture are seen in Buddhist temples and paintings. A huge collection of 20th-century Korean and Western art is displayed in the National Museum of Contemporary Art in South Korea.

**South Korean Music:** Traditional music in Korea incorporates folk or court music which is slow, somber and complex. The other more formal kind is the 'Pansori', which is a musical narrative based on folk tales. Folk songs generally express the emotions and feelings of the working class.

The Korean Traditional Performing Arts Center is devoted to the preservation of traditional music and also encourages the development of new genres of music. The Korea Philharmonic Orchestra Society and numerous other orchestras in Seoul perform contemporary music in South Korea. Operas are also quite popular in the country.

**South Korean Literature:** The invention of the Korean phonetic alphabet, Hangul was one of greatest achievements of the 15th-century in the literary world of Korea. The literary history of Korea grew from the custom of narrating folk tales and legends at festivals and other social gatherings. The folk tales mostly laid stress on Korean values and summarized the kingdom's mythical origins. A large collection of Korean cultural and folklore relics are preserved in The National Folklore Museum in Seoul.

**Economy:** South Korea over the past four decades has demonstrated incredible economic growth and global integration to become a high-tech industrialized economy. In the 1960s, GDP per capita was comparable with levels in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia. In 2004, South Korea joined the trillion-dollar club of world economies.



*Girls' Generation is a popular nine-member South Korean girl group. Formed in 2007, they have sold more than 100,000 copies for each of their six Korean releases.*

A system of close government and business ties, including directed credit and import restrictions, initially made this success possible. During the rapid economic development period, the government promoted the import of raw materials and technology at the expense of consumer goods and encouraged savings and investment over consumption.

**Economic Indicators:**

GDP (PPP): \$1.849 trillion (2015)

GDP (real growth rate): 0.7% (2015)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): \$36,500 (2015)

Origin of GDP: Agriculture: 2.3%; industry: 38%; services: 59.7% (2015)

Labor Force: 26.74 million (2015)

Unemployment rate: 3.2% (2015)

**Agriculture – products:** Rice, root crops, barley, vegetables, fruit; cattle, pigs, chickens, milk, eggs; fish

**Industries:** Electronics, telecommunications, automobile production, chemicals, shipbuilding, steel

**Exports – commodities:** Semiconductors, petrochemicals, automobile/auto parts, ships, wireless communication equipment, flat display displays, steel, electronics, plastics, computers

**Exports – partners:** China 26%, US 13.3%, Hong Kong 5.8%, Vietnam 5.3%, Japan 4.9% (2015)

**Import – commodities:** Crude oil/petroleum products, semiconductors, natural gas, coal, steel, computers, wireless communication equipment, automobiles, fine chemical, textiles

**Imports – partners:** China 20.7%, Japan 10.5%, US 10.1%, Germany 4.8%, Saudi Arabia 4.5% (2015)

**Major universities among more than 200 universities in Korea**

- Seoul National University
- KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology)
- Korea University
- Yonsei University
- Sogang University
- Hanyang University
- Kyung Hee University
- Pohang University of Science and Technology
- Ewha Womans University
- Sookmyung Women's University
- Sungkyunkwan University
- Chungang University



*Seoul National University*

**Broadcast Media:** Multiple national TV networks; major TV networks would be KBS, MBC and SBC; cable and satellite TV subscription services available; publicly operated radio broadcast networks and many privately owned radio broadcasting networks, each with multiple affiliates, and independent local stations

**News Agency:** Yonhap News Agency is the state news agency of South Korean press that was established on December, 1980.

**Transportation:**

Major airlines: Korean Air, Asiana Airlines

Total number of civil airports: 13 (2015)

Total length of railways: 3,590 km (2014)

Total length of roadways: 105,673 km (2014)

Total number of passenger car: 20.99 million (2015)

Total length of waterways: 1,600 km (most navigable only by small craft) (2011)

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**Source:** The World Fact book, CIA (September 2016); World Bank Data (September 2014), OECD Education at a Glance 2015 and Korean government agencies.

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## Interview

# Brexit will not hinder ASEAN integration: Surin Pitsuwan



Former ASEAN Secretary-General  
Surin Pitsuwan

Britain's vote to leave the European Union will not discourage the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from pushing ahead with its own economic integration project, the bloc's former chief said on 24 June, 2016.

In an interview with the Nikkei Asian Review, former ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan said the association can learn from the EU's experience.



**Q: How will the Brexit affect ASEAN?**

**A:** I think the EU is affected, and the EU is one of our largest investors in ASEAN. For a long time it was the No. 1 investor. So the uncertainty and the transformation process over the next two years is going to be a very, very difficult period for us to follow.

**Q: Do you think this will undermine ASEAN integration?**

**A:** I don't think so, because ASEAN integration has not been on the same level of intensity.

We go very incrementally and step by step. We did not go for full integration ~ making the entire ASEAN one economic or political unit. In that sense, we have room for adjustment. And I have always said, the EU has been our inspiration but not our model.

The EU has more commonality, but as you can see, sentiments are very strong, and this will probably set off other demands for referendums ~ there will be others. I heard something from the Netherlands.

I think a factor for all of us to monitor very carefully is this nationalistic sentiment ~ or should I say rise of the right, the right wing. The rise of the right in Europe is going to have an impact on the entire European landscape.

And we in Southeast Asia, we have never been more important to the world, and relatively speaking now even more given the unclear situation in Europe.

I think the focus could be on us in Asia. Japan's currency has already strengthened because the world believes that there is some security here, there is some certainty here, there is some continuity here.

**Q: Is there a clear vision for how people can benefit from regional integration? What about those who feel left out?**

**A:** ASEAN integration will have to benefit citizens, will have to be inclusive. That's one of the objectives of ASEAN economic integration: to be competitive, ... to be equitable and to be able to interact with the world.

So one of the objectives of ASEAN economic integration is to be equitable. I think a good lesson for us is to be conscious of the gap between rich and poor, those who benefit and those who feel left out in the market. Otherwise, this project is also going to have problems.

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*Interviewed by Nikkei Asian Review staff writer Hiroshi Kotani.*

# US Presidential Election Process



## Overview of the Presidential Election Process

An election for President of the United States occurs every four years on Election Day, held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The 2016 Presidential election will be held on November 8, 2016.

The election process begins with the primary elections and caucuses and moves to nominating conventions, during which political parties each select a nominee to unite behind. The nominee also announces a Vice Presidential running mate at this time. The candidates then campaign across the country to explain their views and plans to voters and participate in debates with candidates from other parties.

During the general election, Americans head to the polls to cast their vote for President. But the tally of those votes—the popular vote—does not determine the winner. Instead, Presidential elections use the Electoral College. To win the election, a candidate must receive a majority of electoral votes. In the event no candidate receives the majority, the House of Representatives chooses the President and the Senate chooses the Vice President.

The Presidential election process follows a typical cycle:

- *Spring of the year before an election – Candidates announce their intentions to run.*
- *Summer of the year before an election through spring of the election year – Primary and caucus debates take place.*
- *January to June of election year – States and parties hold primaries and caucuses.*
- *July to early September – Parties hold nominating conventions to choose their candidates.*
- *September and October – Candidates participate in Presidential debates.*
- *Early November – Election Day*
- *December – Electors cast their votes in the Electoral College.*
- *Early January of the next calendar year – Congress counts the electoral votes.*
- *January 20 – Inauguration Day*

## U.S. Constitutional Requirements for Presidential Candidates

The President must:

- *Be a natural-born citizen of the United States*
- *Be at least 35 years old*
- *Have been a resident of the United States for 14 years*

Any person who meets these requirements can declare his or her candidacy for President at any time. Candidates must register with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) once they receive contributions or make expenditures in excess of \$5,000. Within 15 days of reaching that \$5,000 threshold, candidates must file a Statement of Candidacy with the FEC authorizing a principal campaign committee to raise and spend funds on their behalf.

## Presidential Primaries and Caucuses

Before the general election, most candidates for President go through a series of state primaries and caucuses. Though primaries and caucuses are run differently, they both serve the same purpose—to allow the states to help choose the political parties' nominees for the general election.

- *State primaries are run by state and local governments. Voting occurs through secret ballot.*
- *Caucuses are private meetings run by political parties. In most, participants divide themselves into groups according to the candidate they support, with undecided voters forming into a group of their own. Each group then gives speeches supporting its candidate and tries to persuade others to join its group. At the end of the caucus, party organizers count the voters in each candidate's group and calculate how many delegates each candidate has won.*
- *Both primaries and caucuses can be conducted as “open,” “closed,” or some hybrid of the two.*

✦ *During an open primary or caucus, people can vote for a candidate of any political party.*



- ✦ *During a closed primary or caucus, participants must be registered with a political party to vote for one of its candidates.*
- ✦ *“Semi-open” and “semi-closed” primaries and caucuses are variations of the two main types.*

### Awarding Delegates

At stake in each primary or caucus is a certain number of delegates, or individuals who represent their states at national party conventions. The candidate who receives a majority of his or her party's delegates wins the nomination.

The parties have different numbers of total delegates due to the complex rules involved in awarding them. The requirements combine national and state political party rules and practices with aspects of federal and state election laws.

- *In 2016, a Democratic candidate must receive 2,383 of the estimated 4,765 delegates to become the party's nominee. Democratic candidates must win at least 15 percent of the votes earned in a primary or caucus to receive any “pledged” delegates. Candidates generally receive pledged delegates on a proportional basis.*
- *The 2016 Republican candidate must receive 1,237 of the estimated 2,472 delegates to win the party's nomination. Depending on the state, delegates may be awarded proportionally, on a winner-take-all basis, or using a hybrid system. The percentage of primary or caucus votes a candidate must win to receive delegates varies from state to state.*

Each party also has some unpledged delegates, or superdelegates. These delegates are not bound to a specific candidate heading into the national convention.

When the primaries and caucuses are over, most political parties hold a national convention during which the winning candidate receives a nomination.

### National Conventions

After the primaries and caucuses, most political parties hold national conventions to finalize their choice for their Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. The national conventions typically confirm the candidate who has already won the required number of delegates through the primaries and caucuses. However, if no candidate has received the majority of a party's delegates, the convention becomes the stage for choosing that party's Presidential nominee.

### Delegates: Types and Numbers Required

Some parties require a specific number of delegates a candidate needs to win his or her party's nomination in 2016. These include:

- *2,383 of 4,765 delegates for the Democratic party*
- *1,237 of 2,472 delegates for the Republican party*

There are two main types of delegates:

- *Pledged, or bound, delegates, who are required to support the candidate to whom they were awarded through the primary or caucus process*
- *Unpledged, or unbound delegates, or superdelegates, who are free to support any Presidential candidate of their choosing*

### Brokered and Contested Conventions

If no nominee has a party's majority of delegates going into its convention, then the delegates pick their Presidential candidate in a brokered or contested convention. Pledged delegates usually have to vote for the candidate they were awarded to in the first round of voting, while unpledged delegates don't. Pledged delegates may be allowed to choose any candidate in subsequent rounds of voting. Balloting continues until one nominee receives the required majority to win.

### General Election Campaigning

General election campaigning begins after a single nominee is chosen from each political party, via primaries, caucuses, and national conventions. These candidates travel the country, explaining their views and plans to the general population





and trying to win the support of potential voters. Rallies, debates, and advertising are a big part of general election campaigning.

### Electoral College

When anyone cast his vote for President, he is actually voting for a group of people known as electors. They are part of the Electoral College, the process used to elect the U.S. President and Vice President.

The Electoral College serves as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens.

The process begins when political parties select the people who will serve as electors, The electors meet to vote for President and Vice President, and then Congress counts the electoral votes.

### Number of Electors

There are a total of 538 electors. A candidate needs the vote of more than half (270) to win the Presidential election.

- *Each state's number of electors is equal to the number of its U.S. Senators plus the number of its U.S. Representatives. Washington D.C. is given a number of electors equal to the number held by the smallest state.*
- *In 48 states, when a candidate receives the majority of votes, he or she receives all of the state's electoral votes.*
- *Maine and Nebraska are the only two states that use the congressional district method.*

✦ *For example: Nebraska has five electoral votes (one for each of the three congressional districts plus two for the state's senate seats). The winner of each district is awarded one electoral vote, and the winner of the statewide vote is then awarded the state's remaining two electoral votes.*

- *U.S. territories are not represented in the Electoral College.*

It is possible for a candidate to receive the majority of the popular vote, but not of the electoral vote, and lose the Presidential election.

- *For example: If the United States had only three states each with a population of 100, each state would have three electoral votes (2 Senators plus one House of Representatives member) so a candidate would need 5 electoral votes to win the election.*
- ✦ *Candidate 1 wins the first two states by receiving 51 votes per state and loses the third state by receiving just one vote. This gives them a total of 103 popular votes from all three states (51 + 51 + 1). And this translates into a total of six electoral votes-three each from the states the candidate won and none from the state the candidate lost.*
- ✦ *Candidate 2 loses the first two states by receiving 49 votes per state and wins the third state by receiving 99 votes. This gives them a total of 197 popular votes from all three states (49 + 49 + 99). And this translates into a total of three electoral votes-none from the two states the candidate lost and three from the state the candidate won. Because electoral votes are what count in the end, even though Candidate 2 won the popular vote, they lost the electoral vote and therefore lose the election.*

### How to Change the Electoral College

The Electoral College process is part of the U.S. Constitution, it would be necessary to pass a Constitutional amendment to change this system.

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Source: The USA Government's Guide to the Party Conventions.

# Thailand and Myanmar Set Sights on Boosting Bilateral Trade

Kyaw Hsu Mon



*Trucks filled with goods cross the Friendship Bridge from Mae Sot in Thailand to Myawaddy in Myanmar. (Photo: Moe Kyaw / The Irrawaddy)*

On the heels of the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community in January 2016, Myanmar and neighboring Thailand are making plans for a multi-billion dollar trade boost next year. Thailand is second only to China as Myanmar's largest trading partner, and both countries are hopeful that they can make strides toward growing total trade volume by billions of dollars in the year ahead. The Bangkok Post reported that the two ASEAN nations will hash out ways to increase their bilateral trade volume in 2017 to US\$10-12 billion at a joint trade commission meeting in Naypyidaw on January this year.

Myint Cho, director of the Ministry of Commerce, said there were several avenues Myanmar and Thailand could take to enhance trade, including through tackling smuggling and easing some restrictions.

He said, "If we can turn smuggling routes into a form of legal trade, that would benefit both countries. There's still illegal trading going on, and what we need to do in order to increase our trade volume is to have a mutual discussion of the issue."

Myawaddy in Karen State is the largest of five official checkpoints for overland trade between Myanmar and Thailand. Some 150 to 200 trucks cross through the border station from Thailand each day.

Myint Cho said, "Border trade is now being more heavily used. Promoting agri-based products in this way would contribute to a more robust trade volume as well." He added that another way for Myanmar and Thailand to reach their trading goals would be for Myanmar to consider a re-export system, since trade across the Sino-Burmese border is considered illegal in China, while products from Thailand have relatively easy access.

"Relaxing some restrictions so that we can re-export Thai products to China's Yunnan province would perhaps be one of the most strategic mechanisms to facilitate trade."

In the meantime, rampant smuggling will only hold up trading ambitions.

Maung Maung Lay, vice chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), told The Irrawaddy that "Data from Thailand's end is always higher than data from Myanmar because smuggled goods are still going through borders. We need to take care of this".

For instance, according to figures from Myanmar, the total value of imports that passed through Mae Sot into Myawaddy between April and late November of 2015 reached over \$400 million, up from \$198 million over the same period in 2014. By contrast, data from The Bangkok Post showed that for the first 10 months of 2015, bilateral trade totaled \$6.58 billion.

"Products from Thailand are superior to products from other countries in the region. And given that Myanmar borders Thailand, I believe that we'll see a boost in our country's trade volume, as long as we approach the situation strategically," Maung Maung Lay said.

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Kyaw Hsu Mon is a regular Contributor of 'THE IRRAWADDY', Myanmar.



*Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan. - Kremlin, Russia*

## Putin May Be Turkey's New Buddy after the Failed Coup

Nikolas K. Gvosdev

As we continue to sort through the aftermath of the failed attempt at a military coup against the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, one unexpected (and potentially unwelcome, from a U.S. standpoint) development is that this botched attempt to remove Erdolan will further the reconciliation process between the Turkish leader and Russian president Vladimir Putin.

For years, the two men had enjoyed not only a strong personal relationship (cemented by shared views opposing the idea that Western values represent a universal template for all societies), but had presided over the transformation of Russia-Turkey relations, from a highly adversarial position at the end of the Cold War to a full-fledged strategic and economic partnership between NATO's eastern most member and the Kremlin. After the start of the Ukraine crisis, Turkey not only eschewed joining Western sanctions against Russia, but even offered an alternative to the now-stillborn South Stream project, the "Turkish Stream" line, which, if built, would give the Kremlin the ability to end its dependence on Ukraine as a transit state for Russian energy heading for central and southern Europe.

These warm and friendly ties—reaffirmed for the world to see in fall 2015 at the G-20 summit in Antalya—came to a sudden and screeching halt when a Turkish warplane shot down a Russian fighter jet conducting operations in support of Syria's embattled leader Bashar al-Assad after briefly straying into Turkish airspace.

Putin's response was sudden and immediate. Sanctions were imposed on Turkey, the Russians proceeded to massively build up their outpost in Syria and Putin made it abundantly clear that he regarded Erdolan's actions as a personal betrayal of the highest order. For Western strategists concerned about the implications of a closer Russia-Turkey entente, the shootdown pushed Turkey back into the Western embrace, as Erdolan, in turn, demanded assurances from his NATO allies that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had Turkey's back. The subsequent agreement negotiated with European Union leaders for Turkey to control migration into Europe in return for new concessions (including putting





bership in the EU back on the agenda) further seemed to signal that Turkey was returning to its traditional role as the West's bulwark in the Eastern Mediterranean, both against the chaos emanating from the Middle East but also to check and contain Russian expansionism.

Of course, the shootdown of the Russian plane was only a symptom of a larger problem that had been festering in Russia-Turkey relations: the Syria crisis. After the uprising to oust Assad began, Turkey moved to support the opposition, throwing its support to the Sunni Arab opposition in the hopes that Assad and his regime (with its troublesome ties to Iran) could be replaced by a more sympathetic government in Damascus. Russian support for Assad was always a problem, but once Moscow decided to move from simply resupplying Assad to actual on-the-ground intervention to prop up Assad from collapse (after it appeared in summer 2015 that, after four years of struggle, Assad was on the ropes), Turkey saw the Kremlin's moves as directly inimical to its own interests in Syria.

Yet, by late spring, Erdoğan was already beginning to shift course. He finally offered a belated apology for the loss of the Russian aircraft—a public statement that Moscow had been demanding as the price for starting the normalization of relations. Moreover, the Turks could read the map: Assad had been strengthened by the Russian intervention and was now in far less danger of falling, but the ongoing civil war in Syria—and the need for the United States, in particular, to find reliable local allies to battle the forces of Islamic State—was immeasurably strengthening the position of Syria's Kurds and its politico-military movements with their close ties to the Kurdish Workers' Party in Turkey. A continued stalemate in Syria makes the emergence of another Kurdish entity, a Syrian Kurdistan to accompany Iraqi Kurdistan, much more of a possibility. Moreover, not only was the United States aiding the Kurds, but Moscow signaled a shift and began to also reach out to the Kurds, allowing their political movement to open a liaison office in the Russian capital at the beginning of this year. Over time, a political settlement in Syria that leaves Assad in place may prove to be a lesser evil for Turkey to live with than Ankara helping to midwife a Syrian Kurdish statelet.

The flare-up of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh earlier this year also created headaches. Turkey was not looking forward to a proxy clash in the Caucasus with Russia, and continued fighting would help to doom a critical energy transit program. Turkey is very invested in: the Trans-Anatolian line, which will bring Caspian gas to European markets, bypassing Russia's pipeline network. With Turkish Stream seemingly cancelled, the Southern Energy Corridor is vitally important for Erdoğan's hopes to develop Turkey as the indispensable energy transit state for Europe—as well as marketing Turkey as the transit state for the development of Israel's own massive natural gas reserves (thus a key reason for improving Turkey-Israel ties, which have also languished).

So Putin and Erdoğan were already beginning to patch things up, with the Turkish and Russian foreign ministers conferring on how to revive the Russia-Turkey strategic agenda. Then the coup attempt happened.

The United States has continually denied that it played any role in encouraging or supporting a coup attempt. No matter. Putin can easily play on Erdoğan's suspicions that the Obama administration was open to seeing Erdoğan's removal. It fits a narrative that Putin himself has articulated: that the United States preaches partnership with other nations while looking for the first available opportunity to replace their problematic governments (Putin's own interpretation of the abortive "White Revolution" against his decision to return to the presidency in 2011, and his insistence that then secretary of state Hillary Clinton had given the "signal" for action). It is easy to envision how Putin, in his phone call to Erdoğan on July 17, might take up this line of interpretation—and find a ready and receptive audience on the other end of the phone. No doubt a similar message is being conveyed to Azerbaijani president İlham Aliyev, who will be meeting with Putin and Iranian president Hassan Rouhani for a trilateral summit in several weeks.

Will the coup attempt push Erdoğan closer to reaching a compromise deal with Putin on the future of Syria? Does it put the Turkish Stream project back on track, and with it, Russia's efforts to finally rid itself of the need for Ukraine as a transit state? We'll have a better sense of how those questions will be answered in the coming days.

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**Nikolas K. Gvosdev**, a nonresidential senior fellow in the Eurasia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. The views expressed are his own.

# Enhancing a Comprehensive Asia-Europe Partnership in the 21st Century

H.E. PHAM Binh Minh



Exactly 20 years ago, ASEM was founded by 26 Leaders from Asia and Europe as a bridge that connects the two continents. 20 years is not a long period of time compared to the 700 year-old relationship between Asia and Europe. Yet we can be proud of what we have accomplished so far. ASEM has grown beyond our initial expectations and established itself as a crucial platform for dialogue and cooperation. Being the largest cooperation forum between the two continents, ASEM has been instrumental in forging links and multi-layered cooperation for peace and development.

As one among the few inter-regional fora established after the Cold War, ASEM has been and continues to be an important factor in shaping the global setting in the 21st century. ASEM is transforming itself to include new elements of cooperation and integration. And, the Forum is gradually bringing vital benefits to its members in their endeavors to sustain peace, security, stability and economic recovery, and to respond to global challenges. Overcoming barriers and differences, ASEM so far has evolved to become a big family of 53 members. The sense of community among ASEM partners is becoming even stronger with the increasing shared interests that are peace, stability and cooperation for sustainable development and prosperity in both continents.

## **ASEM in the 21st century: opportunities and challenges**

As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, the world continues to witness profound changes that give rise to new issues and challenges to multilateral fora and mechanisms, including ASEM.

The world economy is undergoing fundamental transformations with emerging economic paradigms. With the Fourth Industrial Revolution coming to the fore, new mindsets, policies and practices are taking shape in ways that foster green, sustainable and innovative development, and closely link economic growth to development. The unprecedented development of globalisation and information technology is deepening interdependence among all players and promoting linkages at all levels. All nations tend to enhance cooperation for accelerated economic restructuring and expansion of space for development, and to better position themselves in the new setting. Asia and Europe are witnessing strong growth of partnerships and next-generation free trade agreements.

Global challenges are growing with greater complexity. They cannot be dealt with by any individual country or region. There have been a series of burning issues such as increasing poverty and development gap, climate change, natural disasters, salinisation, population ageing, urbanisation, the water - energy - food nexus, etc. In our view, addressing them is both an imperative need and an impetus for stronger cooperation to ensure sustainable development in each member country and the two continents. This undoubtedly requires ASEM partners to enhance cooperation and connectivity. We need to search and promote fresh impetus for development with broader and deeper as well as cross-sectoral approach.

## **Towards a human-centered, dynamic, connected and resilient ASEM community**

Against such backdrop, first and foremost, ASEM needs to reform itself and lift up cooperation with a view to asserting its crucial role in the evolving multi-polar world. We should work more closely together to develop a truly effective, equitable, and democratic global governance. This represents an objective demand amid the unceasingly changing regional and global landscapes. And, it is also a demand for an enlarging ASEM with more diverse interests and concerns.

At the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) in Milan in October 2014, our Leaders tasked their Ministers and Senior Officials to make recommendations on the future direction of ASEM to be submitted to the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) in

Ulaanbaatar. It is time for us to shape a common view and take bold actions to deepen Asia - Europe cooperation in building an ASEM community that better lives up to the expectations of the people in both continents.

**Firstly**, we need to define and promote new elements for cooperation to enhance ASEM's effectiveness, relevance and in-depthness. While undertaking the three pillars of cooperation in a well-balanced manner, we should give our special attention to promoting sustainable development factors and associating them with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015 Paris Agreement, and the enhancement of ASEM's resilience. Based upon a common denominator of shared interests and accommodated differences, political dialogue should offer incentives for cooperation in response to global challenges and those in the two continents.

**Secondly**, it is critical to develop a new concept and a comprehensive approach that ensure the harmony between the informal nature and the efficiency of ASEM cooperation and create concrete outcomes. To make it possible, we need to identify cooperation priorities and design action plans to realize ASEM vision with specific time-frames for implementation, ranging from 5 to 10 or 20 years.

**Thirdly**, all cooperation initiatives and mechanisms should be human-centered so as to encourage people's engagement in ASEM's activities and provide them with tangible benefits. In this endeavour, we should work to engage youths and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises.



Overview of the 12th National Party Congress (Photo: CPV)

### ASEM in Viet Nam's comprehensive multilateral diplomacy

For Viet Nam, ASEM cooperation is of great importance to our reform, development and far-reaching international integration. ASEM is home to 19 out of 25 strategic and comprehensive partners of Viet Nam, making up 70% of our FDI and international trade, and 80% of international tourists to Viet Nam. 14 out of 16 FTAs signed or under negotiation by Viet Nam are with ASEM partners. This enables Viet Nam to become a crucial link in the large economic integration network of 60 partners, 47 of whom are ASEM partners.

We are also working closely with ASEAN members to promote the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with the EU, paving the way for an ASEAN - EU Strategic Partnership. On the other hand, we are making every effort to fulfil our commitments made in numerous FTAs between ASEAN and its partners, and promote ASEAN - EU FTA negotiations, etc. This also provides Viet Nam with a better position to promote Asia-Europe integration.

The next 5 to 10 years will be crucial to Viet Nam's future development and international profile. We will host the APEC Year 2017, fulfil our commitments to the World Trade Organization by 2018 and realize those in numerous next-generation FTAs. Viet Nam will assume ASEAN Chairmanship in 2020, and is currently running for the UN Security Council non-permanent membership for the 2020 - 2021 term. These showcase our strong determination to undertaking far-reaching international integration and comprehensive multilateral diplomacy - one of the major pillars of Viet Nam's foreign policy. In that endeavour, Viet Nam is committed to working closely with ASEM partners to lift up the Forum's cooperation towards an ASEM community, which is human-centered, dynamic, connected and resilient by nature.

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**His Excellency PHAM Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Viet Nam.** This article is part of the ASEM 20th Anniversary Digital Publication on "20 Years of Asia-Europe Relations". The publication is a collection of articles by leaders and experts from Asia and Europe on the past, present and future of ASEM.

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## Canada is the least xenophobic country in the Western world. Here's why

*While American politics is currently embroiled in a controversy over a major party's blatantly racist remarks, Canadian politics has been moving in a somewhat ... different direction. For example, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 6 June, 2016, breaking the first Ramadan fast with Muslim parliamentarians from his Liberal Party:*



*Muslim Liberal MPs break bread with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for iftar on June 6, the first day of Ramadan in Ottawa. Arif Virani Twitter photo*

It was a pleasure to celebrate Iftar and break the first Ramadan fast with Muslim members of our caucus on 6 June. This is just normal politics for Trudeau. A little over 1 million Muslims live in Canada, about 3.2 percent of the population. It's both good politics and a matter of basic respect to celebrate a major holiday for our country's largest religious minority. (Though the Muslim population is smaller in the US, percentage-wise, American presidents also generally issue official statements on Ramadan.)

On the other hand, the kind of inclusiveness Trudeau's video represents increasingly feels anomalous – and not just because of Donald Trump. In countries around Europe, anti-Muslim prejudice has swelled since the 2015 refugee crisis. There, far-right parties, united mostly by their strong appeal to

anti-Muslim sentiment, have surged in popularity.

What this points to, then, is something that some scholars have termed "Canadian exceptionalism": The country is just a lot more welcoming to immigrants and minorities than virtually every country in the Western world.

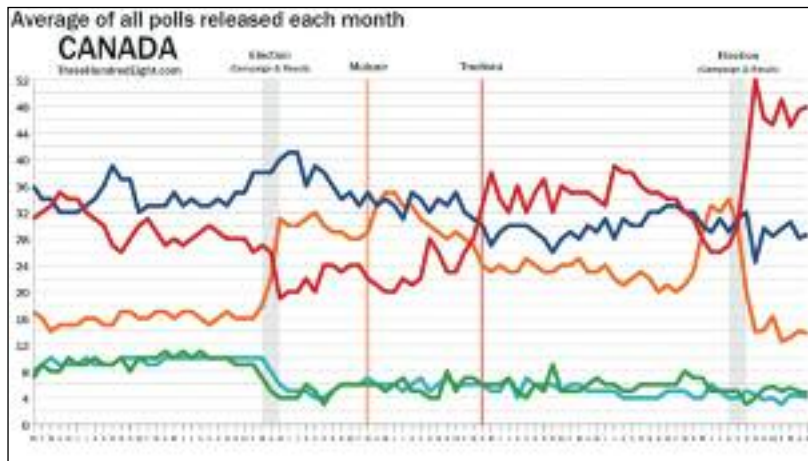
### **In Canada, welcoming immigrants is good politics**

The final stages of the Canadian election in October 2015 were suffused with a sort anti-Islam rhetoric. Incumbent Prime Minister Stephen Harper, of the Conservative Party, spent months decrying the wearing of the niqab, a face-covering garment for Muslim women, particularly by immigrants during citizenship ceremonies. The niqab is "rooted in a culture that is anti-women," Harper said. Wearing it when "committing to joining the Canadian family," according to the prime minister, "is not the way we do things."

The comments were widely understood to be a dog whistle for anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment: Harper was appealing to Canadians who thought Muslim immigration threatened their culture and values.

And indeed, Harper went up in the polls after these remarks. However, he mostly took votes from the NDP, Canada's left-wing party, meaning that Harper's Muslim baiting ironically may well have helped Trudeau's center-left Liberal Party defeat him. So Harper's Islamophobic tack – which, incidentally, was far milder than what you see in the US and Europe nowadays – ended up failing.

And since Trudeau's victory, Harper's politics of division has faded away. While Harper's office had stymied the resettlement of Syrian refugees, Trudeau has already exceeded his campaign promise to admit 25,000 of them into the country. Ac-



(ThreeHundredEight)

### Why Canada is different

"The only real outlier to the nativist trend is Canada," Cas Mudde, a professor at the University of Georgia who studies nativism and far-right politics in Europe and he continues:

Trudeau has handled, so far, the Syrian refugee crisis incredibly well, having taken in 25,000 Syrian refugees against the majority will. Initially, he wasn't supported by the majority — but when they finally arrived, a majority of Canadians did support it. That's one of the few encouraging lessons that we have seen over the last several years: that if you have a positive campaign, which is supported by a large portion of the media, that you can actually swing public opinion in a positive direction.

Why? It's because Canada is genuinely different from other Western countries in terms of its attitude toward immigrants. It's far more welcoming than basically everywhere else.

"Compared to the citizens of other developed immigrant-receiving countries, Canadians are by far the most open to and optimistic about immigration," Irene Bloemraad, a sociologist at UC Berkeley and its chair of Canadian studies, wrote in a 2012 study published by the Migration Policy Institute:

"In one comparative poll, only 27 percent of those surveyed in Canada agreed that immigration represented more of a problem than an opportunity. In the country that came closest to Canadian opinion, France, the perception of immigration as a problem was significantly higher, at 42 percent."

Why? According to Bloemraad, the Canadian government has spent decades attempting to foster tolerance and acceptance as core national values, through policies aimed at integrating immigrants and minority groups without stripping them of their group identity.

For example, Canada emphasized permanent resettlement and citizenship in its immigration policy, rather than the sort of guest worker policies you've often seen in the US and Europe.

This actually worked in reshaping the values of citizens, making them more tolerant. Bloemraad explains: A key aspect of the "Canadian model" lies in the view that immigration helps with nation building. Bolstered by the federal government, this view goes beyond political and intellectual elites to be embraced by a significant proportion of ordinary Canadians.

Indeed, one recent paper found that, in Canada, those who expressed more patriotism were also more likely to support immigration and multiculturalism. In the United States this correlation went in the opposite direction: those expressing greater patriotism were more likely to express anti-immigrant attitudes.

Trudeau's inclusionary politics have worked, then, because he's operating in a country that has long prioritized tolerance as a matter of public policy.

Given that Americans and Europeans are currently reaping the whirlwind of not mimicking this approach, they might want to start taking notes.

cording to a March immigration proposal, Trudeau aims to bring in at least 12,000 more Syrians by the end of the year.

Trudeau is doing all this without facing a major nativist backlash. In fact, support for the Liberals has skyrocketed since his election in October, and remained high, as you can see in the below chart (Liberals in red, Conservatives in blue, NDP in orange):

So we're having a bit of a unique moment. While most of the Western world is seeing a surge in nativism and Islamophobia, the Canadian government has become more and more open to minority groups and immigration.

Courtesy: Zack Beauchamp at VOX World.

# Saudi Arabia's Bold Vision for Economic Diversification

MOHAMED A. EL-ERIAN



Saudi Arabia has captured the world's attention with the announcement of an ambitious agenda, called Vision 2030, aimed at overhauling the structure of its economy. The plan would reduce historical high dependence on oil by transforming how the Kingdom generates income, as well as how it spends and manages its vast resources. It is supported by detailed action plans, the initial implementation of which has already involved headline-grabbing institutional changes in a country long known for caution and gradualism.

While the immediate catalyst for economic restructuring is the impact of the sharp fall in international oil prices, the rationale for these reforms has been evident for much longer. With oil sales generating the bulk of government revenues, and with the public sector being the predominant employer, Saudi officials have long worried that the Kingdom's lack of economic diversity could place at risk its long-term financial security.

The more than halving of oil prices in the last 18 months has been accompanied by a major change in how the oil market functions. With growth in non-traditional sources of energy – particularly the “shale revolution,” which drove a near-doubling in US production, to almost ten million barrels per day, in just four years – the Saudi-led OPEC oil cartel has less influence on market prices. In addition, certain members of OPEC, again led by Saudi Arabia, are now less willing to try to moderate fluctuations in the price of oil, as they correctly recognize that “swing producers” risk durable losses in market share.

That's why Vision 2030 is so important. Seeking to regain better control over its economic and financial destiny, the Kingdom has designed an ambitious economic restructuring plan, spearheaded by its energetic new deputy crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. In simplified terms, Vision 2030 focuses on three major areas, together with efforts to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population.

**First,** the plan seeks to enhance the generation of non-oil revenues, by raising fees and tariffs on public services, gradually expanding the tax base (including through the introduction of a value added tax), and raising more income from a growing number of visitors to the Kingdom.

**Second,** the authorities want to reduce spending by lowering subsidies, rationalizing the country's massive public investment program, and diverting spending on arms away from foreign purchases.





**Third**, the Kingdom seeks to diversify its national wealth and, in the process, increase current investment income. For example, the plan would raise funds via the IPO of a small part (up to 5%) of Saudi-Aramco, the giant oil conglomerate, and invest the proceeds in a broader range of assets around the world.

This bold economic vision is not without risks. Economic transitions are inherently tricky, especially one of this scale and scope. Early successes are often needed to solidify the overwhelming buy-in of key constituencies, particularly those that naturally may be resistant to change at first.

The action plans underpinning the implementation of Vision 2030 inevitably involve progressing on multiple fronts simultaneously and in a carefully coordinated and monitored fashion. Requiring invigorated administrative and operational resources, it comes at a time when the Kingdom is not only dealing with lower oil earnings and drawing down its large reserves, but also is increasingly asserting its regional role, including in Syria and Yemen.

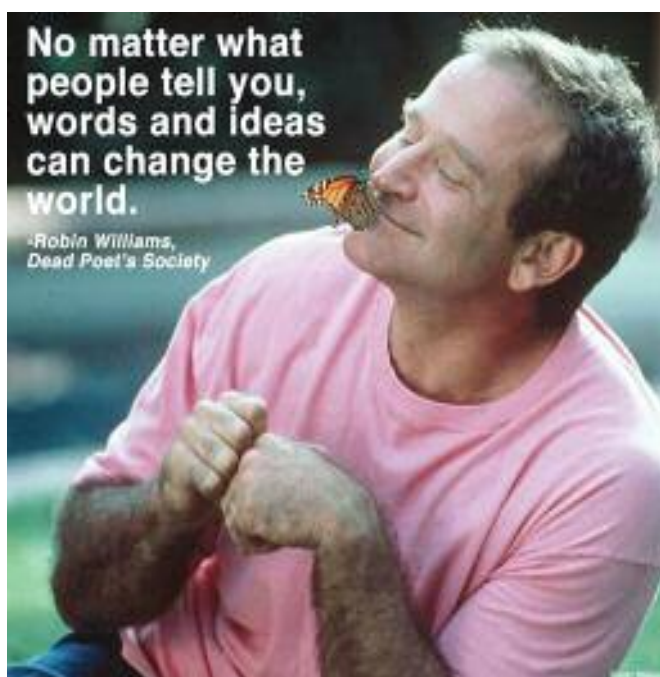
Against this background, it is encouraging that the announcement of Vision 2030 has been followed rapidly by the implementation of some initial and notable steps. Sustaining this momentum in a manner that maintains consistent communication with key domestic stakeholders will likely prove critical in determining the plan's success. How the Saudis proceed on this important economic restructuring is being closely watched by the other five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council – and by many other countries as well.

The attention attracted by Vision 2030 is not surprising. The plan, after all, is about a lot more than fundamental economic reforms. If Saudi Arabia succeeds in transforming its economy, including reforming institutions and restructuring economic incentives, other countries that face similar challenges, in the region and beyond, will be inspired to follow suit.

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**Mohamed A. El-Erian**, *Chief Economic Adviser at Allianz and a member of its International Executive Committee, is Chairman of US President Barack Obama's Global Development Council.*

## QUOTABLE QUOTES



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## Biography of Donald Trump



*Family picture*

Donald John Trump is one of America's best-known business and television personalities whose business interests include real estate, gaming, sports and entertainment. Even though he has made his share of mistakes and is generally perceived as an average manager, he is an excellent example of a charismatic leader. Many people view Trump as larger than life because of his energizing capability, his ability to envision the future and support others while inculcating confidence in them. At a young age, he became involved with some of the largest profitable building projects in Manhattan and also opened the Grand Hyatt, earning much fame as the city's best known developer. Trump is a power oriented business leader and celebrity, possessing an autocratic leadership style. His extravagant lifestyle and outspoken manner have earned him a celebrity status which is amplified by the success of his NBC reality show, 'The Apprentice' which also became an offshoot for 'The Celebrity Apprentice'. He was on the fourteenth position on the Forbes celebrity 100 list and is claimed to have net worth of \$3.2 Billion according to Forbes in 2013.

### Education

Donald Trump was born on June 14, 1946, in Queens, which is one of the five boroughs of New York. His father, Fred Trump, was a real estate developer and his mother was Mary Mcleod. He had his initial schooling in the Kew Forest in the Kew Forest school, Forest Hills, New York. At the age of 13, his parents sent him to New York Military Academy (NYMA) in Upstate New York where he performed well, both socially and academically, emerging as a star athlete and student leader. Trump attended the Fordham University in Bronx for two years after which he joined the Wharton



School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1968, Donald Trump graduated from Wharton school of Business with a bachelor degree in Economics.

### Career

While Trump was studying at Wharton, he started working for Elizabeth Trump & Son, his father's company. After graduating in 1968, he joined the company and by 1971 was in full control. Later on he renamed the company 'The Trump Organization'. Over the years, Donald Trump has considerably enlarged his business empire by building several casinos, hotels and golf courses. He also built many real estate properties, which include a New York City neighborhood. The chairman of The Trump Organization is also a known face in the United States due to his highly popular program, The Apprentice, a NBC reality television show which ran from 2004 to 2015. In 1996, he got the ownership of Miss Universe Organization which produces the Miss Universe, Miss USA, and Miss Team USA Pageants. In 2001, he completed the Trump World Tower, which was a 72 storey residential tower across the UN Headquarters. He also began construction on Trump Plaza along the Hudson River. He wrote many books which became famous worldwide for their entrepreneurial guidance. It includes, 'Trump: The Art of the Deal', 'Think Big: Make it happen in Business and Life', 'Think Like a champion: An Informal Education in Business and Life', 'Trump 101: The Way to Success', 'Trump: How to get Rich', 'Trump: Surviving at the Top', 'Trump: The Art of Comeback and 'Crippled America.'

### Marriage

Donald Trump has mostly been in the news for his highly publicized marriages. The billionaire businessman married three times, two of these were to east European models and one to an American actress. On April 7, 1977, Donald Trump married his first wife, Ivana Zelníčková, a Czech model. By early 1990, Donald Trump's marriage to Ivana was faltering and his affair with actress Marla Maples was finding its way on the front pages of the tabloid press. In an interview that was taken in 1994 by the ABC News and resurfaced recently, Donald Trump cited his marriage problems to his decision to give his wife a management role at one of his Atlantic City casinos. His marriage to Maples also did not last long. Nearly four years after their marriage on December 20, 1993, the couple split and their divorce was finalized in June 1993. In 1998, Donald Trump began a relationship with Slovenian-born fashion model Melania Knauss, whom he married on January 22, 2005. His marriage to Knauss is still going strong.

### 2016 US Presidential Elections

On June 16, 2015, Donald Trump announced that he would be running for President. He strongly emphasized the slogan "Make America Great Again." Trump focused on domestic issues such as off shoring American jobs, where he promised to bring back jobs to the US from China and Mexico, illegal immigration, Islamic terrorism and US national debt. At times, he has gone overboard in his statements. He called for a ban on Muslims entering America and even suggested the situation would not have been so bad if Charlie Hebdo victims had guns to defend themselves.

Thirteen months after launching an improbable bid for the White House, Donald Trump captured the 2016 Republican Presidential Nomination in the Republican National Convention held in Cleveland on July 19, 2016, having vanquished 16 Party rivals, warred with much of its establishment and provoked controversy at every turn. Donald Trump has finally chosen Indiana State Governor Michael Richard Pence as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

Now, it remains to be seen whether he would be able to defeat Hillary Clinton in the November 8 elections and become the next President of the United States of America.

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**Source:** Society for Recognition of famous people, USA.



# Hillary Rodham-Clinton Biography

## Early Life:

Hillary Clinton has served as secretary of state, senator from New York, first lady of the United States, first lady of Arkansas, a practicing lawyer and law professor, activist, and volunteer—but the first thing her friends and family will tell you is that she's never forgotten where she came from or who she's been fighting for.



*Hillary Rodham (center) with her father, mother, and brother, Hugh Jr.*

Hillary Diane Rodham was born on October 26th, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. She is the oldest of Hugh and Dorothy Rodham, and has two younger brothers, Hugh Jr. and Anthony. Hillary, a women's rights and equality advocate from a young age, was raised as a conservative Republican, but after seeing Martin Luther King Jr. deliver a speech and beginning her studies at Wellesley College in Massachusetts her life, and politics, were changed forever.

Rodham's collegiate education began in 1965, and she quickly became active in student politics. Her work with campus politics gave her a strong, anti-war voice, and she changed her views from conservative Republican to the liberal Democrat ideologies she is known for today. After graduating from Wellesley in 1969 (she spoke at graduation as the senior class president), she attend Yale Law School.

It was at Yale that Hillary met, and began dating, her future husband William Bill Clinton. She graduated from law school with honors in 1973, and then spent a year doing post-graduate work at the Yale Child Study center about children and medicine. After her post-graduate year, Hillary moved to Little Rock, Arkansas where she became an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas School

of Law, in addition to becoming a very powerful and distinguished attorney.

On October 11th, 1975, Hillary Rodham married Bill Clinton (who at the time was also a law professor at the University of Arkansas) in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Shortly after their marriage, the couple moved to the state capital, Little Rock, where Bill began his political life. Hillary continued her law work, which became so impressive that "she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 to serve on the board of the Legal Services Corporation.

In 1978, while Hillary became partner at the Rose Law Firm, Bill was elected as the Governor of Arkansas, and so began her 12 year role as the First Lady of Arkansas. While she was First Lady of Arkansas, not only did she maintain her thriving career as a lawyer and the couple's only child, Chelsea Victoria Clinton, who was born on February 27th, 1980.

## Political Life

Bill Clinton began running for president in 1992, throughout his campaign Hillary received lots of criticism, ranging from corruption to lacking "family values" – a term commonly used in the campaigns of particularly the Republican Party during the elections. Bill always came to Hillary's defense, often claiming that, if elected, Hillary would be an integral part of his presidency, a "two for one deal."

On January 20th, 1993, Bill Clinton was inaugurated, becoming the 42nd President of the United States. Just as he had promised during his campaign, Bill made sure that Hillary was an equal partner in his presidency, appointing her head of the Task Force on National Health Reform. While her purposed policies were considered "too liberal" by some administrators and were never presented to the



*Hillary and Bill Clinton at their wedding in 1975*



*Hillary Rodham-Clinton with husband, Bill, and daughter, Chelsea, after Bill's inauguration*

House or the Senate, Hillary brought health care to the forefront of political and social discussion.

Another topic dear to the First Lady's heart was, and remains so to this day, women's rights. During her eight years as First Lady, Hillary went to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China where she delivered a famous speech, saying that *"human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights."*

\* While her husband's presidency, particularly his second term, was marred with scandal and bad publicity, Hillary used her position as a stepping stone for her future successes.

In 2000, Hillary announced that she was going to run for the New York seat in the United States Senate, and on November 7th, she came she emerged from the elections victorious, being the first, and up until now the only, First Lady to be elected to the United States Senate. Hillary would

serve as a New York senator for the next nine years. In the Senate, Hillary showed her determination and her ability to work across party lines – especially after the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, which devastated New York City.

During her years in the Senate, "she served on the Armed Services Committee, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Budget Committee and the Select Committee on Aging. She was also a Commissioner on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe."

Hillary announced in 2007, that she would be running for president in the 2008 elections. Her campaign was very successful, and for some time she was considered the Democratic Party's best candidate; however, Senator Barack Obama from Illinois also announced his candidacy. Hillary stayed loyal to her supporters and campaigned until the very end of the primary season, but in the end withdrew and told her supporters that if they supported her, they would support Obama.

The 2008 elections proved to be historic, despite Hillary's withdrawal, as President Obama being the first African-American president of the United States. Shortly after his victory, however, he appointed Hillary Clinton as his Secretary of State, a position which she accepted.

When Hillary Rodham-Clinton was the Secretary of State of the United States, she had continuously worked for improving American foreign policy and relationships with international powers. After eight years of Bush foreign policy, Hillary was instrumental in the effort to restore America's standing in the world. Even former Republican Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said she "ran the State Department in the most effective way that I've ever seen."

Hillary Clinton became the first woman to accept Democratic Party's Nomination for President of the United States on the final day of the Democratic National Convention held in Philadelphia on July 28, 2016.

Hillary Clinton has picked up Tim Kaine, Virginia Senator as her Vice Presidential running mate.

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Source: National First Lady Library, USA.

# 10 ways Duterte plans to change the Philippines

H.E. Rodrigo Duterte



*President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signs his Oath of Office. Behind him are his children witnessing the signing. RTVM PHOTO*

Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as Philippine president on June 30, 2016 after a landslide election victory built on a series of bold and controversial pledges.

Here are 10 ways Duterte plans to change the Philippines during his six years as President:

## **War on crime**

Duterte has said he must take extreme measures to stop the Philippines becoming a narco-state. Security forces will be given shoot-to-kill orders. Bounties will be paid for killing drug dealers. Ordinary citizens will also be encouraged to kill suspects. The death penalty will be restored, by hanging.

## **Federalism**

Duterte, who rails against "Imperial Manila", intends to change the centralized government to a federal system in which newly created states would have a large degree of autonomy. They would also be able to keep most of their revenues. Doing so will require rewriting the Constitution.





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### **End rebellions**

Duterte insists he can end decades-old Muslim and communist rebellions, which have claimed tens of thousands of lives. Peace talks with the communists are set to start very shortly. He expects federalism will appease Muslim rebels, who want autonomy.

### **Family planning**

He wants to slow the Philippines' fast-growing population, which recently surged past 100 million. He says families should aim for a maximum of three children. Duterte wants government agencies to supply the poor with free condoms and birth control pills. A 2012 law allowing for that has not been fully implemented, partly due to opposition from the powerful Catholic church.

### **Address inequality**

Duterte describes himself as a "socialist", and has vowed to change an economic model that has created one of Asia's biggest rich-poor divides. Roughly one quarter of the population live below the poverty line. He says federalism is one key to this. But he also plans to continue with the successful macro-economic policies of his predecessor, Benigno Aquino.

### **Social discipline**

Duterte plans to roll out a nationwide curfew on children being on the streets alone late at night. He also wants to ban alcohol being served in public past midnight, and stop people from singing karaoke ~ a national passion ~ in public late in the late evening.

### **End graft**

Duterte has promised to rid government agencies, police and the military of deep-rooted corruption. But aside from general statements, such as corrupt officials should "retire or die", he has not explained how he would fix one of the Philippines' most intractable problems.

### **Marcos burial**

Duterte intends to allow late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to be buried at a cemetery for national heroes, saying this will help end decades of social division over the issue. But human rights victims say this will help whitewash the dictator's crimes.

### **Foreign investment**

Duterte is in favor of changing the constitution to lift restrictive foreign investment laws. Duterte told telcos to improve one of the region's slowest Internet connections or face competition from foreign players. But he is opposed to foreign ownership of land.

### **Closer China ties**

After relations with China plummeted during Aquino's term over a South China Sea territorial dispute, Duterte has said he wants "friendly" ties with Beijing. Aquino refused to hold direct negotiations with China over the maritime dispute, but Duterte is open to one-on-one talks. He is also courting Chinese investment in infrastructure.

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**Source:** GMA News, Philippines.



## Brief Biography of US Democratic Vice-Presidential Candidate

### Tim Kaine



**United States Senator from Virginia**  
**Incumbent**  
**Assumed office**  
January 3, 2013  
Serving with Mark Warner

**Chairman of the Democratic National Committee**  
**In office**  
January 21, 2009 – April 5, 2011

**70th Governor of Virginia**  
**In office**  
January 14, 2006 – January 16, 2010

**38th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia**  
**In office**  
January 12, 2002 – January 14, 2006

**76th Mayor of Richmond**  
**In office**  
July 1, 1998 – September 10, 2001

#### Personal details

<b>Born</b>	Timothy Michael Kaine February 26, 1958 (age 58) Saint Paul, Minnesota, U.S.
<b>Political party</b>	Democratic
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Anne Holton (m. 1984)
<b>Children</b>	Nat, Woody, and Annella
<b>Alma mater</b>	University of Missouri, Columbia Harvard University
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholicism

## Brief Biography of US Republican Vice-Presidential Candidate

### Mike Pence



**50th Governor of Indiana**  
**Incumbent**  
**Assumed office**  
January 14, 2013

**Chair of the House Republican Conference**  
**In office**  
January 3, 2009 – January 3, 2011

**Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's 6th district**  
**In office**  
January 3, 2003 – January 3, 2013

**Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's 2nd district**  
**In office**  
January 3, 2001 – January 3, 2003

#### Personal details

<b>Born</b>	Michael Richard Pence June 7, 1959 (age 57) Columbus, Indiana, U.S.
<b>Political party</b>	Republican
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Karen Pence (1985–present)
<b>Children</b>	Michael Charlotte Audrey
<b>Residence</b>	Governor's Residence
<b>Alma mater</b>	Hanover College Indiana University, Indianapolis
<b>Religion</b>	Evangelical Catholic

Source: Wikipedia

## Bidding adieu to Sadeq Khan.....



The Management of the Center for East Asia Foundation (CEAF) deeply condoles the death of eminent journalist Sadeq Khan, also a adviser of CEAF. He was a man of multiple abilities which were evident from his writings ranging from socio-political issues to paintings, economy, social injustice to even acting in films. With much compassion we expect his family members to contain this bereavement with courage. May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul with His divine mercy.

Sadeq Khan (1936-2016), a recipient of Ekushey Padak, was a prolific writer both in Bangla and English, a leading light in the intellectual arena, who passed away 16 May. The late writer and journalist was the eldest son of former speaker of Pakistan National Assembly, Justice Abdul Jabbar Khan. Sadeq Khan a man renowned personality of multiple talents. He made his foray in filmdom as the lead actor in the film, *Dur Hae Sukh Ki Gaon* and directed the film *Nadi-o-Nari* based on the famous novel written by the then Indian Central Minister for Education Humayun Kabir.

The late Sadeq Khan's contribution to our liberation war in 1971 was significant. On behalf of the Bangladesh Government- in

exile he played an important role in securing international support while seeking global recognition of our liberation war besides maintaining regular contacts with the Sector Commanders and cultural activists.

He was also the honorary Chairman of Bangladesh Press Institute and honorary President of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka.

With his exile, a light in our intellectual arena goes out. Filling the void of such an iconic is always a challenge.

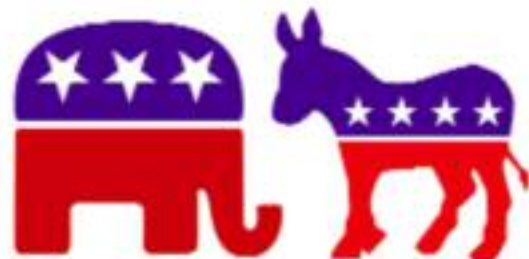
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**Tashfia Tasreen** is a Contributor at *Rising Asia Magazine*.



<b>Country name:</b> conventional long form: United States of America conventional short form: United State abbreviation: US or USA				<b>Religions:</b> Protestant 51.3%, Roman Catholic 23.9%, Mormon 1.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Jewish 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, Muslim 0.6%, other or unspecified 2.5%, unaffiliated 12.1%, none 4% (2007 est.)					
<b>Ethnic groups:</b> White 79.96%, black 12.85%, Asian 4.43%, Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97%, native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander 0.18%, two or more races 1.61% (July 2007 estimate)				<b>Ethnic groups:</b> White 79.96%, black 12.85%, Asian 4.43%, Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97%, native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander 0.18%, two or more races 1.61% (July 2007 estimate)					
				<b>Area</b> (sq km)					
<b>Government type:</b> Federal presidential republic		<b>Capital:</b> Washington, DC	<b>Founding:</b> 4 July 1776 (declared)	Total: 9,833,517	Land: 9,147,593	Territory sea: 685,924			
<b>Constitution:</b> Effective 4 March 1789; amended many times, last in 1992 (2016)		<b>Nationality:</b> American(s)		<b>Population</b>					
<b>Administrative divisions:</b> 50 states and 1 district				Total: 321,368,864	Growth rate: 0.78%				
				<b>Life expectancy</b> (years)					
				Combined: 79.68	Male: 77.32	Female: 81.97			
<b>Geography:</b> World's third-largest country by size (after Russia and Canada) and by population (after China and India); Denali (Mt. McKinley) is the highest point in North America and Death Valley the lowest point on the continent									
<b>Natural resources:</b> Coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, rare earth elements, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber, arable land				<b>Labor force:</b> 156.4 million, includes unemployed		<b>Population below poverty line:</b> 15.1% (2010 est.)			
<b>Languages:</b> English 79.2%, Spanish 12.9%, other Indo-European 3.8%, Asian and Pacific island 3.3%, other 0.9% (2011 est.)				<b>GDP</b>					
				PPP: \$17.95 trillion	Real growth rate: 2.4%	Per capita (PPP): \$55,800	Currency (code): US Dollar		

**Source:** *The World Factbook, CIA (2015 est.)* | **Compiled by:** Rumman Uddin Ahamed, Associate Editor, Rising Asia



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