Preface

It was a winter morning when I started studying something about the Government and Politics in South Asia as one of my coursework for MPhil. I was taught in the class by my professors and again I studied starting from the history of South Asia. How South Asia became as a region? Who divided it and for what purpose? The 200 years of British rule in Indian subcontinent. How and why the subcontinent was divided? The cruel politics of partition time among politicians of almost all political parties. The way the borders were created and the new nations built up. Why after 23 years Pakistan was again divided and Bangladesh emerged as a separate nation. And after nearly 60 years of origin of new nations no country has able to developed fully so far. I found, up to a long way, this border system is being becoming one of the biggest barriers on the way of development of the subcontinent. Then I decided to take border problems as the topic for my career in research. The present study is entitled “Indo-Bangladesh Land-Border Management: Challenges Before India’s National Security.” The history of borders, their origin, formation, and the challenges it facing to be managed and which directly and indirectly is threatening the national security of every country.

Precisely, the study on Indo-Bangladesh border management has some specific reasons. First of all, no exclusive and through research has ever been done before. Secondly, the way of creation of this border, its unique nature, political renew of its name in 1971 and specially the difficulties security forces facing in its management work. Bangladesh or previously East Pakistan was created dividing Bengal into West and East Bengal. When West Bengal was remained a part of India, East Bengal became a part of Pakistan as East Pakistan. Undivided Bengal was always one nation that is Bengali nation. Because of misunderstanding among politicians and their lust for power, the nation was divided but the sentiment, the feeling and affection have never been ended.

There was a hues difference between West Pakistan and East Pakistan—in language, culture, economic development, educational and political and administrative power sharing. East Pakistan was again put Islam as the state religion and Urdu as the national language that means all the official works will be done through Urdu. However, Bengalis were not thorough with Urdu and then after hues protest they got their language back.
East Pakistan was treated the same as India was treated under British Raj. The fighting for Bengali as another national language was the step and wining of Awami League and defeat of Pakistan People's Party in the national election was the second step towards separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan. India with the help of its army Mukti Bahini was won the liberation war of 1971 under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman.

Bangladesh became the first country formed at the very critical juncture of Cold War when the whole world was at the verge of war with one another. Bangladesh is the only unique country in the world with Islam as the state religion when Bengali is the national language. By culture they are similar with West Bengalis (Indians) but by religion they are like Pakistanis. How a border is changing the identity of a country and its people. A border determines the identity destine and way of life of a group of people residing within its purview. Bangladesh got the same border as East Pakistan with India after the partition, the same nature and the same disputes with more threats to security. The nature and problem of the management to this border has not been changed last 61 years. Still the similar misunderstanding persisting among security personnel, firings, killing of common people, terrorism, insurgency, mafias, trafficking are gone up very high last few years.

Is it a different kind and different type of border? Is the history still influence the border management task? Is Globalization and spreading information is interrupting the work? Is the border needs a different kind of perception due to Liberalization, Free Trade Agreements and flow of Foreign Direct Investments? The answer is 'yes,' definitely the border needs to be treated in a different way in 21st century when the whole world is going for policy of "no-border" and "de-border".

It is really very hard to understand and accept to open up the Indo-Bangladesh border when the security threat emerging out of this border is unstoppable, unacceptable and uncompromissable. But the reality is reality and that's the only truth. If not today, tomorrow, day after tomorrow or after some years 'the only way to manage any border will be without managing it' or "de-bordering it.' In the modern world no country can manage its border through arms, ammunitions or machines. Border management does not mean putting soldiers on the border with guns, machines and aircrafts. Every country in the modern world is having arms no matter it is a small or big country. Many countries
are now days going for nuclear (weapons) including Bangladesh. Border management largely depends upon the political and economic relations between countries. The traditional way and method of managing borders, on the other hand, is gone older and failed to cope up with the growing economic development of the country and the changing world scenario. There is only one way to manage the international borders is through the help and cooperation between and among the countries it concern. That also depends upon a healthy bilateral relation between both the countries.

There are certain ways to bring and make healthy relationship between countries especially in the contemporary world. Cultural exchange or the culture of exchange could be the only way to cultivate a healthy bilateral relationship. The cultural exchange or the culture of exchange implies cooperation in the sectors of socio-cultural relations or cooperation, cooperation in the economic fields like trade and commerce and cooperation in other sectors specially security, human development, etc. The stormy movement of Globalization has destroyed all the barriers among nations and peoples around the world. ‘No Border’ or ‘Borderless World’ is the call and reality of the time. Human development and human cooperation is first before anything else irrespective of nationality, colour, creed, gender, climate and distance. Everybody has to be growing up together with the help and cooperation among each other around the world. Liberalization on the other hand has proved that Free Trade is the best way of trade and Foreign Direct Investments are on your door steps to help you, boost and make strong your economy and human development. The growing socio-cultural and especially economic opportunities have compelled to rethink the traditional border management and national security policies and strategies.

In this study these are the main questions going to be discussed in the subsequent chapters. This would be one of the best studies has ever been done exclusively on border and the first exclusive work on Indo-Bangladesh border management and national security problems. However, India has started its journey towards the better way of managing this border. Three Prime Ministers of India have already given very important statements furthering the movement towards a greater cooperation among South Asian nations. Firstly, Starting with Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral and his world famous “Gujral Doctrine,” which was the first time and completely a different package for the
neighbouring countries. This was for cooperation and help towards their development as a modern nation. Secondly, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave a statement that “we certainly can change our friends but not neighbours” which was furthered by Dr. Manmohan Singh through his statement “we cannot omit the border but the good relationship can gradually change the definition of the border.” These are not mere statements but some bold steps towards an impossible mission of making friends to whom were treated like foes since long time. Really, border should not be a zone of conflict it should be a zone of economic and socio-cultural cooperation, says Prof. C Rajamohan. It should not be the line of separation but a line of joint, cooperation, friendship and good will. And the better way can be realized as carrots are much more powerful than a bunch of sticks (Prof. Joseph Nye Jr.).

If not in near future but gradually India and Bangladesh will become close friends and cooperate each other very closely in every sector of development towards the development of both the countries along with development of the South Asian region. Good cooperation among countries in south Asia will make the region a unique and most developed and prosperous among all the regions of the world and it has also its potentialities. It can be possible only when all the national borders will be lifted and omitted among the nations and people. The flow of friendship, affection, helps, information, ideas will be the only way. I know this is an impossible daydream but the world has been surviving and has reached at the 21st century through some impossible dreams of some ordinary and extraordinary people. As Einstein, the greatest physician once said dreams and strategies are 98 percent of a thing to be built up and the rest 2 percent is the implementation.

The present study has done on the basis of four best and very important hypotheses. These are tested thoroughly with the investigation of available all kinds of data of primary and secondary—as books, articles, treaties, statement and pamphlets. Several rounds of field studies are also been done to have the practical knowledge of border and border related problems. Field visit and several interviews were conducted from several people belongs to several categories and sectors. Men, women, old and young of four categories of people were interviewed and their statements were compared and compiled. In both the countries of India and Bangladesh several eminent scholars, researchers,
political leaders, and other eminent people who have certain knowledge in the field were also interviewed and consulted. The study was also two times presented in front of people and scholars to get their valuable comments and which was found positive. The study has been tried to be explained in six subsequent chapters. From origin of the border, border disputes, the attempts to resolve the issue to suggesting and analyzing some ways and methods for its speedy-resolve.

I firmly believe and hope the study entitled "Indo-Bangladesh Land-Border Management: Challenges Before India's National Security" will enlighten and further sensitize the nation in general and civil society, policy makers and future law makers in particular to take appropriate and effective steps towards ending the decades-long border dispute and threats to the border and national security.

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