

The logo for the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2023. It features a blue geometric shape on the left, resembling a stylized map of the Bay of Bengal or a network of nodes. To its right, the text "Bay of Bengal" is in a black serif font, "Conversation" is in a blue sans-serif font, and "2023" is in a black sans-serif font. Below "Conversation" is the phrase "Rising Tides" in a brown cursive script.

Bay of Bengal
Conversation 2023
Rising Tides

**Opening Remarks by Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury | Bay of Bengal
Conversation 2023**

Speaker- **Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury**, Chairman, Centre for Governance Studies

Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, “former prime minister of Mali, excellencies distinguished guests, friends from media ladies and gentlemen assalamu alaikum, good morning. At first i would like to thank his excellency Mr Musa Mara for delivering an insightful speech on this topic and beyond this morning i and my cgs team are greatly honored to welcome you to this conference Bay of Bengal Conversation or BOBC is our annual flagship conference. We use this platform to highlight the issues that affect the countries in the region as you already know that the focus of this conference is indo pacific. Over the last few decades, the center of geopolitical gravity has shifted from euro Atlantic to indopacific region is a confluence of two oceans Pacific Ocean and Indian ocean. This region encompasses 40 countries and economies 65% of the global population live here. It is predicted that this region will contribute about 50% of global GDP by the year 2040 security of sea lands. Linking this these two great oceans is very important for global economy and for international trade, consider the fact that 5.3 trillion worth global trade passing through the south China sea the region is increasingly becoming a theater for big time rivalry of big powers. Global north nations have already formulated their indo pacific strategies but some countries including Bangladesh do not have yet very specific indopacific strategies the conference will look to explain how different indopacific strategies around the world and world have been adopted and put into effect. It is right time to deeper into this issue so the rivalry among the big powers transforms into healthy competition. During the next 3 days hundreds of academics, experts, diplomats, civil society leaders will discuss issues exchange ideas views opinions on this important issue. I hope there will be robust debates among the participants. On behalf of the center for governance studies I welcome all the participants of Bay of Bengal Conversation, I sincerely hope that your participation will lead to greater prosperity and a stable peace for the people in this region. I take this opportunity to express our thankfulness to our partners and sponsors without their

generous help and cooperation hosting of this conference would not be possible. Once again I and my cgs team thank you all for participating in this conference thank you.”