



Dr Fahmida Khatun

Dr Fahmida Khatun is one of Bangladesh's leading development economists and a recognised voice on economic policy and sustainable development in the Global South. With more than three and a half decades of experience in economic research and public policy analysis, she has worked extensively with governments, United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, bilateral development partners, public sector financial institutions, research institutions, and the private sector to address complex economic and development challenges.

Her work is distinguished by its ability to bridge rigorous economic analysis with practical policymaking, translating research into actionable policy solutions that help governments and development partners address complex development challenges.

Since 2017, Dr Khatun has served as the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh's premier independent policy research organisation. Under her leadership, CPD has further strengthened its role as one of the country's most influential policy think tanks, producing evidence-based research and fostering dialogue among government, parliament, the private sector, civil society, academia, development partners, and the media.

Prior to joining CPD, Dr Khatun was a Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), a government think tank. Earlier in her career, she worked as a senior professional with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Bangladesh. She also taught economics at universities in Bangladesh and the United Kingdom and has been a Visiting Fellow at several internationally recognised research institutions, including the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), India, and the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway.

Dr Khatun has earned international recognition through her active engagement in global policy processes and development dialogue. She is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's

Independent Expert Advisory Panel on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and the High-level Advisory Board on the Productive Capacities Index of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She is also a member of the Task Force on Climate, Development and International Financial Architecture, an international initiative led by Boston University.

She previously served as Co-Chair of the T20 India Task Force on Accelerating SDGs: Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda under the G20 process. She was also a member of the Advisory Team of Connect to Learn, a global education initiative of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and served as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C.

At the national level, Dr Khatun has made significant contributions to strengthening public institutions and economic governance in Bangladesh. She serves on the Board of Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, and on the Board of BRAC, the world's largest non-governmental development organisation. She was a member of the Government's Task Force on Re-Strategising the Economy and Mobilising Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development and the Task Force to Strengthen the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), both formed by the Interim Government of Bangladesh during 2024–25. She was a member of the Panel of Economists for Bangladesh's Eighth Five-Year Plan formed by the Ministry of Planning. She is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Government of Bangladesh's Five-Year Strategic Framework (2026–2031), contributing to the country's long-term development strategy.

Dr Khatun completed her postdoctoral research at Columbia University in the USA, where she collaborated with renowned economist and global voice Professor Jeffrey Sachs. She holds both an MSc and a PhD in Economics from University College London (UCL), University of London, and is an alumnus of the Leadership Decision-Making Programme at Harvard University.

Her research spans macroeconomic policy, fiscal and monetary policy, financial sector governance, international trade and WTO issues, international development finance, climate change, energy, environmental sustainability, digital public infrastructure, health systems, youth employment, gender and development, institutional reform, and the economic transformation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). She is widely recognised for integrating multidisciplinary research with policy practice, helping governments and development partners design effective and forward-looking policy responses to contemporary development challenges.

Dr Khatun has authored and co-authored numerous books, peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, policy reports, and research papers. Her work has been published by leading international publishers, including Cambridge University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Springer, and Sage Publications, and has contributed significantly to scholarship and policy debates on development economics and public policy.

Beyond academia and policy advisory, Dr Khatun is an influential public intellectual who actively contributes to public discourse on economic and development issues. She is a regular columnist

for The Daily Star (<https://www.thedailystar.net/author/dr-fahmida-khatun>), Bangladesh's leading English-language newspaper. She is also a contributor to several national dailies and an invited contributor to the East Asia Forum at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (<https://eastasiaforum.org/author/fahmidakhatun/>).

Dr Khatun is a widely respected public commentator on economic and development issues. She regularly provides expert analysis and commentary in national and international media, including BBC World Service Television and Radio, Voice of America, Al Jazeera, and several leading broadcast and digital platforms. Earlier in her career, she was a regular contributor to BBC Bangla at the BBC World Service in London. She has also hosted several popular television talk shows on Bangladesh's leading national television channels, facilitating informed public dialogue on contemporary economic and public policy issues.

Beyond her distinguished career as an economist, Dr Fahmida Khatun is a passionate Rabindra Sangeet singer and has released a solo music album. In recognition of her contributions to economic research and public policy, Dr Khatun was honoured with the Anannya Shirsho Dosh (Top Ten Outstanding Women) Award in 2009 by Anannya, one of Bangladesh's leading women's magazines.