



On the other hand, Bangladesh is important to the US because it is the only Muslim-majority country

Bangladesh's direct access to the Indian Ocean is strategically important for the US since, under a new US strategy, the Pentagon has decided to shift its focus and resources away from Europe to Asia-Pacific.

The writer is a former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Geneva.

The best friends
I never met



(Only joking. My cooking and children are faultless.)

Nuclear power: Look before you leap

There are many possible event sequences

A 1996 study on the Probabilistic Safety

A black and white photograph of a nuclear power plant. Five large, white, hyperboloid cooling towers are visible, each emitting a thick plume of white steam that rises into the sky. Between the towers, several tall, slender chimneys are also visible, some with horizontal bands. The plant itself is a complex of various structures, including pipes and smaller buildings, situated behind a line of dark trees. In the foreground, a flat, open field stretches across the bottom of the frame, with a dark, winding path or road leading from the bottom center towards the plant. The sky is a uniform, light gray.

the damage and the exposure, and to evacuate millions of people to a safer area? How secure will be the reactors and spent fuel facilities from terrorist attacks, political upheavals, and natural disasters? Do the citizens know the risks of living near a nuclear power plant? What is the plan for decommissioning the reactors after their useful lives of 35-40 years?

Unlike the hot ashes left over in a coal-burning furnace that can be cooled by dousing with water, radioactive "hot ashes," in the form of fission fragments and actinides produced in the spent fuel of a reactor, cannot be cooled by water. They rid themselves of

A nuclear mishap has ramifications which can extend far beyond its place of occurrence. For example, the fallout from a nuclear accident at Rooppur will affect not only the people in its immediate vicinity, but also the rest of Bangladesh and the neighbouring Indian states. The food and other goods exported from Bangladesh to other countries might also be affected by the fallout. Because of such global ramifications of a nuclear mishap, the government will also be accountable to the citizenry of the world.

The writers are Professor of Physics, Fordham University, New York and Nuclear Engineer & Energy Policy Specialist in Arlington, Virginia, respectively.