

Bangladesh Foreign Policy Watch

CGS Centre for Governance Studies



A Bi-Weekly Roundup of Key Events

There is a possibility that the trial may eventually be brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), he said. Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam and Prosecutor Mizanul Islam were also present during the meeting, where these statements were made, underscoring the seriousness of the proceedings. The ongoing legal developments indicate the international dimension of this case, with potential global legal repercussions if extradition efforts are unsuccessful.

Kolkata Traders Campaign for Bangladeshi Tourists

In an effort to restore confidence among Bangladeshi tourists, traders from Kolkata's "Mini Bangladesh" area have launched a campaign to reassure visitors about their safety. This initiative aims to counter the spread of misinformation on social media and showcase India's commitment to the security of tourists through a collaborative effort involving the Indian government, West Bengal administration, and local businesses. The campaign employs social media outreach and personal reassurances to address concerns and encourage tourists to visit again. Traders emphasized the region's historical ties with Bangladesh and its welcoming environment, despite the recent turmoil in Bangladesh, which had adversely affected tourism. This campaign seeks to ensure that Bangladeshi visitors feel safe and welcomed as they return to the area.

December 11

BNP Wings Hold Long March

Three key associate bodies of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)—Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Swachchhasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal—organized a long march from Dhaka to Akhaura, located near the Indian border, in protest against an alleged attack on a Bangladeshi diplomatic mission, disrespect for the national flag, and claims of attempts to incite communal unrest. Marchers from various districts of Bangladesh expressed their strong discontent with India's actions, asserting their unwavering commitment to protecting the sovereignty of Bangladesh. The march underscored a call for unity and the preservation of Bangladesh's autonomy and security, warning against any foreign attempts to destabilize the country.

Hasina's Trial Possible in Absentia

The trial of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will continue in her absence if India does not comply with an extradition request, according to Toby Cadman, Special Adviser to the Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal. Cadman stated that international standards will be strictly followed in the trial regarding the July-August mass killings.

ADB Approves \$600 Million Support

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a policy-based loan of \$600 million to support structural reforms in Bangladesh's economic management. This loan is aimed at improving domestic resource mobilization, increasing the efficiency of public investments, reforming state-owned enterprises, and enhancing transparency and governance. Key initiatives supported by the loan include digitalization projects, green initiatives, rationalizing tax incentives, and improving taxpayer morale. The program also seeks to strengthen the private sector environment, attract foreign investments, and reduce trade costs by introducing reforms in the logistics sector. These reforms are expected to improve Bangladesh's economic competitiveness and foster greater diversification, further boosting its economic resilience.

79 Bangladeshi Crew Detained in Odisha

The Indian Coast Guard has detained two Bangladeshi fishing trawlers, FV Meghna 5 and FV Layla 2, and their 79 crew members for unauthorized fishing in Indian waters. The trawlers were taken to Paradip port in Odisha for legal proceedings. However, Bangladeshi sources argue that the vessels were operating within Bangladesh's maritime territory near Hiron Point in Khulna at the time of their detention. The Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association and the Department of Shipping are coordinating with Indian authorities to facilitate the safe return of the trawlers and crew. Additionally, the Bangladesh Coast Guard and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are working together to resolve the issue, ensuring that the matter is addressed diplomatically and that the detained fishermen are released promptly.

Japan Supports Bangladesh Reforms



Japan has reiterated its commitment to supporting Bangladesh's ongoing reforms and its economic growth, with Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori praising the leadership of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus. Ambassador Iwama highlighted Japan's dedication to fostering peace, stability, and stronger economic ties, particularly in the areas of human-to-human interaction and economic cooperation.

Japan has pledged continued support for Bangladesh's reform initiatives, including the electoral process, and expressed its desire to see more Japanese investment in Bangladesh's rapidly growing economy. Despite recent unrest, Ambassador Iwama noted that no Japanese companies have withdrawn from Bangladesh, reaffirming Japan's ongoing partnership with the country. The ambassador also offered strong support for an international conference on the Rohingya issue, while Professor Yunus expressed his gratitude and urged Japan to increase its investment in Bangladesh to further boost economic development.

December 13

India-Bangladesh Ties Improve: Adviser

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has underscored the importance of overcoming political tensions between Bangladesh and India to foster a positive and cooperative relationship between the two nations. Reflecting on the impact of Bangladesh's recent mass uprising, Rizwana emphasized the need for a forward-thinking approach in the context of bilateral relations. She highlighted that resolving such tensions is vital to strengthening diplomatic ties and ensuring long-term collaboration.

US Emphasizes Minority Protection in Bangladesh

The United States has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of religious and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh. White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby emphasized that the interim government of Bangladesh has made it a priority to safeguard all citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. US President Joe Biden is actively monitoring the situation in Bangladesh, particularly in light of the recent unrest and protests from Hindu American groups in the US, which have decried the violence faced by Hindus following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government. The United States is actively collaborating with the interim government to bolster the capacity of Bangladesh's law enforcement and security services to protect minority communities and uphold human rights. These efforts are part of broader diplomatic initiatives aimed at fostering stability and peace in Bangladesh during a period of significant political turmoil.

Naf River Vessel Ban Lifted

The Teknaf upazila administration has lifted an indefinite ban on vessel operations in the Bangladeshi section of the Naf River, including the Teknaf-Saint Martin's Island route, which was initially imposed due to tensions in Myanmar. The ban was introduced in response to escalating conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State, where the Arakan Army had seized control of Maungdaw.

Although the ban has been lifted, strict security measures are still in place, including Coast Guard escorts and increased patrolling to prevent any vessels from inadvertently crossing into Myanmar's territorial waters. Despite these measures, essential goods have still been successfully delivered to Saint Martin's Island. Locals in the region continue to report gunfire in Myanmar, likely linked to ongoing clashes between the Arakan Army, Myanmar junta forces, and other armed groups, underscoring the continued instability in the area. The lifting of the ban comes amid efforts to ensure regional security while maintaining crucial trade routes.

UNDP, Sweden Bolster Bangladesh Governance

On December 11, 2024, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Sweden signed a significant agreement aimed at advancing governance reforms in Bangladesh. The initiative forms part of UNDP's Integrated Support for Advancing Reforms and Democratic Governance portfolio, which focuses on strengthening accountability, promoting gender-responsive governance, and rebuilding public trust in the justice and law enforcement systems. UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable access to justice and enhancing the rule of law in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Swedish Ambassador Nicolas Weeks highlighted the importance of maintaining institutional integrity and inclusivity, particularly through consultations with marginalized groups. The partnership seeks to drive meaningful progress in Bangladesh's governance framework, focusing on transparency, accountability, and the inclusion of underrepresented communities in decision-making processes. By supporting these reforms, the collaboration aims to strengthen democratic governance and improve public sector efficiency in Bangladesh.

December 14

Government Seeks Mutual Ties with India: Touhid

The Bangladeshi government has expressed its desire for a positive relationship with India, one based on mutual respect and common interests. Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain emphasized that the government is committed to a peaceful transfer of power through a neutral and proper election process. The interim government is focused on ensuring national stability while fostering good relations with all nations, anchored in respect, equality, and diplomacy. These points were highlighted during a recent view exchange meeting, attended by various government officials and local dignitaries, who discussed the importance of diplomatic engagement for the future of Bangladesh's international relations.

India Exports 3,320 Tonnes of Rice

In a significant development, 3,320 tonnes of rice have been imported from India via the Benapole land port over a 25-day period.

This marked the resumption of rice imports after a two-year hiatus, prompted by the Bangladeshi government's decision to lift the customs duty on rice imports. Eight companies, including Mahbubul Alam Food Products, Ark Trading, and Sardar Enterprise, were involved in the importation process. The government had set a 25-day deadline for importing and marketing the rice, which expired on December 12, 2024. This import followed India's decision to lift the export ban it had imposed on both parboiled and non-parboiled rice on July 20, 2023.

Bangladesh Welcomes Timor-Leste President

Timor-Leste President José Ramos-Horta arrived in Dhaka for a four-day official visit, where he was greeted with a state welcome by Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. During his visit, President Ramos-Horta held high-level meetings with Chief Adviser Yunus and Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain. In addition to these discussions, the Timor-Leste President participated in Bangladesh's 54th Victory Day celebrations, visited the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar, and met with President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban. He concluded his visit by delivering a lecture at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) on global peace challenges and engaging with students and youth leaders.

During his visit to Bangladesh, Timor-Leste President José Ramos-Horta expressed optimism about expanding trade and economic relations with Bangladesh. He emphasized the potential for increased imports from Bangladesh and invited Bangladeshi businesses to explore investment opportunities in Timor-Leste. Highlighting Timor-Leste's upcoming membership in the ASEAN in 2024, Ramos-Horta linked this development to enhanced access to a market of 700 million people, which would further strengthen trade ties. President Ramos-Horta also reiterated Timor-Leste's support for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees and pledged to secure ASEAN's backing for these efforts. During his visit, he signed two key agreements: one for bilateral consultations and another for visa exemptions for diplomatic and official passport holders.

December 15

Government Secures Loan from AIIB

The Bangladesh government has signed a loan agreement with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for the development of the "Southern Chattogram and Kaliakoir Transmission Infrastructure Development Project." The deal includes loans amounting to \$109.78 million, 29.42 million EUR, and 132.49 million RMB. This project is aimed at improving the reliability and capacity of the power transmission network in the Southern Chattogram and Kaliakoir regions. The loan terms include a 32-year maturity period, with a 7-year grace period and interest rates tied to the SOFR, EURIBOR, and SHIBOR benchmarks, subject to fluctuations.

December 16

India Reaffirms Ties with Dhaka on Victory Day

On Bangladesh's Victory Day, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka reaffirmed the deep-rooted friendship between Bangladesh and India, founded on the shared sacrifices of freedom fighters and Indian soldiers during the 1971 Liberation War. Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar extended heartfelt greetings to Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain and the people of Bangladesh. The commemoration at the Agartala-Akhaura border in Tripura included a wreath-laying ceremony, a cycle rally, and exchanges of greetings and sweets between senior officers, underscoring Tripura's pivotal role in the Liberation War. These events highlighted the enduring solidarity and mutual values of justice and freedom shared by the two nations.

December 17

Thailand introduces e-visa for Bangladeshis

Thailand has announced the launch of an e-visa service for Bangladeshi citizens, starting January 2, 2025. Bangladeshi official passport holders would be exempt from visa requirements. Applicants can fill out the online application form, upload required documents, and submit the application without the need to submit their passport physically. Due to technical limitations, applicants in Bangladesh are required to transfer the visa fee to the Thai Embassy's bank account and upload the payment summary for verification. The e-visa processing will typically take around 10 working days.

December 18

Dr. Yunus Heads to Egypt for D-8 Summit

Dr. Muhammad Yunus has departed Dhaka for a three-day visit to Egypt to participate in the 11th D-8 Summit in Cairo. The summit, centered around the theme "Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy," will bring together heads of government from several countries, including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan. Dr. Yunus is also scheduled to deliver a lecture at Al-Azhar University in Cairo. The summit will include a series of meetings, such as the 48th session of the D-8 Commission and the 21st session of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers. The D-8 (Developing-8) is an international organization aimed at fostering development cooperation among member countries, including Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Bangladeshis Shift Card Spending Destinations

Bangladeshis have significantly reduced their credit card spending in India, with a 40% year-over-year decline recorded in October. The reduction is largely due to India's restrictive visa policies, which have limited the number of Bangladeshi patients and tourists visiting the country. Meanwhile, credit card usage by Bangladeshis has seen an uptick in Thailand and Singapore. Historically, India was the top destination for Bangladeshi credit card spending, but this has been overtaken by the United States since July, 2024. As visa restrictions persist, Bangladeshis are now choosing Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore for medical and leisure purposes. Domestic and international credit card transactions have increased overall, reflecting shifts in spending patterns.

Bangladesh Requests \$750M IMF Support

Bangladesh has requested an additional \$750 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address ongoing economic challenges, including foreign exchange shortages. The IMF has forecasted a slowdown in Bangladesh's GDP growth to 3.8% in FY25, followed by a rebound to 6.7% in FY26, with inflation expected to ease from 11% to 5% over this period due to tighter policies. A staff-level agreement has already cleared \$645 million under the existing \$4.7 billion program, but the additional funds are contingent upon meeting strict conditions, such as raising electricity prices—a measure the government may delay due to inflation concerns. The IMF has called for further policy tightening, fiscal reforms, and greater exchange rate flexibility to bolster Bangladesh's economic resilience.

Malaysia Supports Bangladesh

During a meeting in Cairo, Malaysia's Higher Education Minister, Dr. Zambry Anel Kadir, reiterated Malaysia's support for Bangladesh, particularly concerning the Rohingya crisis and Bangladesh's bid to become an ASEAN sectoral dialogue partner. Dr. Kadir met with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus, to discuss a range of issues, including the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers and strengthening higher education ties. Professor Yunus proposed the creation of a UN-supervised safe zone in Myanmar's Rakhine state and called for an international conference on the Rohingya crisis.

Bangladesh Secures \$600M ADB Loan

Bangladesh has secured a \$600 million policy-based loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support structural reforms aimed at improving resource mobilization and public investment efficiency.

The loan, provided under the "Strengthening Economic Management and Governance Program, Subprogram-1," will focus on fiscal management, state-owned enterprise (SOE) reforms, transparency, and governance improvements to stimulate private sector growth. The program will be implemented by several key agencies, including the Finance Division, BIDA, PPP Authority, the Competition Commission, and the NBR. The overarching goal of the program is to enhance fiscal efficiency, improve governance of SOEs, streamline trade policies, and increase competitiveness, setting the foundation for sustainable economic growth and a more transparent regulatory framework.

Dhaka Invites UN Chief in 2025

Bangladesh has officially invited UN Secretary-General António Guterres to visit in 2025, allowing him to witness the country's ongoing transformation. The invitation was extended by Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith on behalf of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus. Guterres commended Bangladesh's substantial contributions to global challenges such as climate change, peace, and food security, and expressed support for the interim government. During the meeting, Muhith briefed Guterres on Bangladesh's plans to hold an International Rohingya Conference in early 2025, receiving assurance from the UN Secretary-General of full support. Muhith also highlighted six reform commissions established to ensure free and fair elections. Guterres praised Muhith's multilateral expertise and reiterated the UN's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's development initiatives.

December 19

IMF's Fourth Tranche Coming Feb 10

Bangladesh is set to receive \$645 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on February 10 as part of the \$4.7 billion loan program, including \$80 million from an additional \$750 million loan. Another \$80 million will be disbursed in June, bringing the total new loan disbursement to \$160 million for this fiscal year. The IMF has highlighted several economic challenges, such as inflation exceeding expectations, slow growth, and pressure on foreign exchange reserves and the balance of payments. It also flagged issues in the banking sector, particularly the rise in non-performing loans (NPLs), and urged greater exchange rate flexibility. In response, the government is focusing on banking, tax policy, and revenue mobilization reforms to alleviate these economic pressures.

Bangladesh Seeks Adani Deal Review

Bangladesh's interim government has accused Adani Power of breaching a multi-billion-dollar power plant deal by withholding tax benefits tied to the agreement signed in 2017. The deal, which was awarded without a tender process, is considered more expensive than Bangladesh's other coal power contracts.

Since the plant began supplying power in July 2023, Bangladesh has struggled to meet its payment obligations, accumulating several hundred million dollars in arrears. The government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, is now seeking to renegotiate the deal, citing recent bribery indictments against Adani executives in the U.S., although Adani denies any wrongdoing in Bangladesh. The dispute revolves around tariff calculations, with Bangladesh pushing for lower rates. A court-ordered investigation will guide the next steps in resolving the issue.

Bangladesh Rejects IMF Advice on Electricity Price

Despite recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to raise electricity prices to alleviate subsidy pressures, Bangladesh's government has decided against implementing the increase. The IMF had suggested that raising prices would ease the burden on public finances, but the government argued that such a move would further strain citizens already facing high inflation. Instead, the government plans to address the issue by reducing the cost of electricity generation, focusing on eliminating corruption and removing government secretaries from power company boards.

UN Backs Bangladesh Reform Agenda

The United Nations has commended Bangladesh's progress and reaffirmed its support for the interim government's reform agenda, which focuses on elections, policing, anti-corruption efforts, and human rights. During a joint steering committee meeting, senior officials from 28 ministries, 18 UN agencies, and key stakeholders discussed priorities for 2025, including the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026). The meeting reviewed plans for accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and preparing for Bangladesh's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. The Cooperation Framework outlines five key strategic priorities: inclusive economic development, equitable human well-being, environmental sustainability, transformative governance, and gender equality. Key interventions for 2025 will include integrated policy, financing, and capacity-building efforts to accelerate SDG progress and drive sustainable development.

December 20

World Bank Grants Bangladesh \$1.16B

The World Bank has approved a \$1.16 billion funding package for three major initiatives in Bangladesh, focusing on health, water, and climate resilience. The first project, worth \$500 million, will support green, climate-resilient development through policy reforms aimed at improving public planning and financing.

A second program, valued at \$379 million, will strengthen health and nutrition services, benefiting 5.1 million people in the Sylhet and Chattogram divisions while addressing maternal and neonatal mortality. The third initiative, a \$280 million project in Chattogram, will provide safe water to over one million people and improve sanitation for 100,000 in low-income areas. These initiatives align with both Bangladesh's development priorities and the World Bank's ongoing support for the country.

India Protests Adviser Mahfuz's Remarks

India has lodged a formal protest with Bangladesh over controversial remarks made by Mahfuz Alam, an adviser to Bangladesh's interim government. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed concern over the lack of responsibility in public statements and reiterated its commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Bangladesh. The comments in question, which have since been deleted, called for India to recognize the uprising that led to Sheikh Hasina's resignation. India also voiced concerns about rising violence against Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, urging the interim government to take steps to ensure their safety.

Bangladesh: Economist's 'Country of the Year 2024'

Bangladesh has been named "Country of the Year 2024" by The Economist, in recognition of the student-led protests that led to the ousting of the autocratic regime of Sheikh Hasina, who had ruled for 15 years. Following her resignation in August, a temporary technocratic government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus has restored order and stabilized the economy. The government now faces the task of repairing diplomatic relations with India and ensuring fair elections in 2025.

Touhid: Resolving Rohingya Essential for Peace

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain highlighted the importance of resolving the Rohingya crisis for regional peace during a meeting with Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa in Bangkok. Touhid proposed a roadmap for the safe and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas and called on ASEAN to ensure their safety in Myanmar's Rakhine State. In addition, the discussions touched on enhancing trade between Bangladesh and Thailand, launching Ranong-Chattogram coastal shipping routes, and simplifying visa processes, with an e-visa system set to launch in January 2025. During his visit, Touhid also delivered aid to Thai flood victims and met with the Bangladeshi expatriate community to mark International Migrants Day and National Expatriates Day-2024, underscoring regional cooperation and humanitarian efforts.

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Commission Links India to Bangladesh's Enforced Disappearances

The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance, established by Bangladesh's interim government, has raised concerns about possible links between India and Bangladesh regarding enforced disappearances, with some individuals reportedly still detained in Indian prisons. The commission's report recommends efforts to identify any Bangladeshi nationals still incarcerated in India. It highlights specific cases, including Shukhranjan Bali, who was abducted from the Bangladesh Supreme Court and later discovered in an Indian jail, and Hummam Quader Chowdhury, who reported hearing Hindi-speaking captors during his detention. The report also cites BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed's case, describing his detention and transfer to India as part of the alleged Bangladesh-India rendition system. Testimonies from witnesses and former soldiers point to high-level coordination between the two countries' security forces regarding these exchanges.

India Backs Democratic Bangladesh Vision

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has reiterated its support for a "democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive, and inclusive" Bangladesh. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized India's commitment to fostering a "positive and constructive" relationship with Bangladesh, rooted in "mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity." India remains committed to collaborating with Bangladesh in various sectors, including connectivity, trade, power, energy, and capacity building. In the same vein, India has lodged a strong protest with Bangladesh regarding a recent controversial Facebook post by Adviser Mahfuz Alam, highlighting its close attention to developments that impact its security and interests.

December 22

Over 30,000 Foreign Nationals in Bangladesh with Expired Visas

At least 30,000 foreign nationals, mostly from India and China, are residing in Bangladesh with expired visas, according to sources from the intelligence agency and the Department of Immigration and Passports. The Ministry of Home Affairs has urged these individuals to renew their visas, warning of legal consequences for non-compliance. A revised penalty structure, effective from December 5, now imposes daily fines ranging from Tk 1,000 to Tk 3,000 depending on the duration of overstay. Failure to comply may lead to legal action under the Foreigners Act, 1964. Authorities are also targeting companies and universities that fail to notify visa expirations.

December 23

Bangladesh Seeks Extradition of Ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India

The Bangladesh government has sent a diplomatic note to India requesting the extradition of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to face charges in Bangladesh. Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain confirmed the note verbale was issued, seeking her return for the judicial process. Home Adviser Jahangir Alam also confirmed his ministry's request for facilitating the extradition under a prisoner-exchange agreement. Hasina faces multiple serious charges, including murder, genocide, and crimes against humanity. The extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India, amended in 2016, allows for the return of individuals accused of non-political crimes.

December 25

BNP Condemns Border Killings Calls for End to Violence

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir condemned border killings, stating that such actions should never be accepted under any circumstances. Speaking to the media upon his arrival in Sylhet, Fakhrul urged India to stop these killings, reiterating BNP's longstanding demand for an end to the violence. He emphasized the collective responsibility of the people to build a country free from fascism and reaffirmed BNP's commitment to restoring democracy in Bangladesh.

December 26

Bangladeshi Teenager Shot Dead by Alleged Khasia Community Members at Border

A 16-year-old Bangladeshi teenager, Md Maruf Mia, was shot dead by alleged members of India's Khasia community near the Bangladesh-India border in Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila. The incident occurred around 12:30pm in the Minatila area as Maruf and others attempted to cross the border illegally into India. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) confirmed the shooting, stating that Maruf was rescued and taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, where he succumbed to his injuries around 3:00pm. Authorities are investigating the incident, which has raised tensions along the border.

December 28

Dhaka Must Balance Relations with India, China, and the US, Says Foreign Adviser

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain emphasized that Bangladesh must balance its relations with India, China, and the US to protect its interests. Speaking at a national dialogue organized by the Forum for

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December 29

Hidden Health Costs Burdening Bangladeshi Migrant Workers

A recent study by Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (Okup) revealed the harsh financial and health burdens faced by returnee migrant workers. Over 57% of returnees took loans for medical treatment at home after being denied healthcare abroad, in addition to migration costs of Tk 4-6 lakh. Many workers suffer from physical and mental health issues, with back pain, tumors, and cardiac problems being common. The study highlighted policy gaps in migrant healthcare, calling for employer or state responsibility for healthcare costs. Experts suggest government support and embassy-led campaigns to address these pressing issues.

December 30

Bangladeshis in Mozambique Face Violence, Looting Amid Political Unrest

Around 5,000-8,000 Bangladeshis in Mozambique are facing severe insecurity and violence amid political turmoil following disputed election results. Many are being extorted, their businesses looted, and homes set on fire by locals, with little assistance from law enforcement. Ziaul Islam, a Bangladeshi businessman, shared that he had to pay 20,000 metical for security after his warehouse was looted. Despite spending Tk 5 lakh for protection, no help came from local authorities. With a lack of diplomatic support and growing fears, many Bangladeshis, including women and children, are seeking emergency assistance and hoping for intervention from the Bangladesh government.

Contributors

Nuzhat Tabassum

Program Assistant at Center for Governance Studies (CGS)

nuzhat@cgs-bd.com

Bahauddin Ahmed

Digital Coordinator at Centre for Governance Studies (CGS)

bahauddin@cgs-bd.com



Centre for
Governance Studies