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Bangladesh Foreign Policy Watch

CGS Centre for Governance Studies



A Bi-Weekly Roundup of Key Events

Pakistan-Bangladesh propose direct connectivity



24 August

Arakan Army abducts Bangladeshi fishermen

The Arakan Army has reportedly abducted 14 Bangladeshi fishermen and seized two trawlers off Teknaf's Naikhongchhari as they were returning from the Bay of Bengal amid adverse weather conditions. This incident follows a succession of similar occurrences, including the abduction of 12 fishermen the previous day and several others earlier in August. Since December 2024, as many as 237 fishermen have been abducted, with 189 individuals and 27 vessels later rescued through operations conducted by Border Guard Bangladesh. Local authorities, including the Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer, have confirmed the latest abduction and noted that investigations into the matter are currently ongoing.

Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Bangladesh's Commerce Adviser Bashir Uddin undertook a one-day visit to Chittagong, where they engaged with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) as well as inspected key industrial and port facilities. The discussions centred on enhancing bilateral cooperation in sectors such as ready made garments, agriculture, ship recycling, and trade logistics, with proposals tabled for direct shipping routes and flights to streamline commerce. The business community emphasised the digitisation of trade processes and welcomed the creation of a Joint Working Group on Trade to institutionalise dialogue. Leaders underscored the

untapped potential in bilateral trade and invited Bangladeshi stakeholders to the International Food and Agricultural Exhibition scheduled to be held in Karachi this November.

Pakistan Deputy PM meets Khaleda

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar paid a visit to former Bangladeshi Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence, accompanied by a six-member delegation. Dar enquired after her health and conveyed greetings from Pakistan's president, prime minister, and former prime minister. Their meeting was primarily centred on her well-being but also touched on bilateral relations, SAARC cooperation, and the devastating floods in Pakistan. BNP leaders Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and AZM Zahid Hossain were present, with no political discussions reportedly taking place. Dar also met Jamaat-e-Islami amir Shafiqur Rahman, wishing him recovery following cardiac surgery.

Bangladesh, Pakistan to address contentious issues

In a key diplomatic engagement in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Pakistan expressed commitment to strengthening "multidimensional relations" while confronting longstanding disputes. Bangladesh reiterated its demands for a formal apology for the 1971 genocide, the repatriation of over 320,000 stranded Pakistanis, and the return of pre-independence assets and foreign aid. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar argued that these matters had already been settled in 1974 and 2002, citing General Musharraf's visit, but Bangladesh's Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain dismissed this, stressing the need for continued dialogue. The meeting concluded with a visa agreement for diplomatic and official passport holders alongside five MoUs covering trade, media, culture, and strategic studies.

Yunus urges urgent SAARC revival

At a high-level meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh's interim government Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus, and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, stressed the urgent need to revitalise SAARC as a platform for regional cooperation. Both leaders discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties through trade, youth exchanges, and cultural collaboration. Yunus emphasised SAARC as a shared priority with Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif, highlighting people-to-people connections and mutual respect as the bedrock of cooperation. Dar, meanwhile, praised Yunus's internationally acclaimed work in poverty alleviation and announced plans to improve connectivity, including direct flights between the two nations. Both leaders expressed optimism that deeper regional engagement could foster stability and prosperity across South Asia.

JICA conducts training for teachers

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has recently organised an Overseas Training programme for Japanese teachers in Bangladesh, designed to enhance their understanding of education systems in developing countries while fostering international cooperation.

Chinese shoe firm invests \$10m in BEPZA EZ

Chinese footwear manufacturer Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited is set to invest \$10.20 million in the BEPZA Economic Zone to establish a new shoe production facility. The agreement was signed by Chairman Ye Yary and BEPZA's Member for Investment Promotion Md Ashraful Kabir at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka. Once operational, the factory will produce 2.10 million pairs of footwear annually—including sandals, flats, high heels, pumps, booties, boots, and sports shoes—creating jobs for 1,939 Bangladeshi workers. conference.

Rohingya influx risk rises

Renewed clashes between Myanmar's military junta and the Arakan Army near the Bangladesh border have sparked concerns of a possible new Rohingya influx. Reports of heavy gunfire and drone strikes opposite Teknaf's Whykong union caused panic among locals and refugees. Community leaders have indicated that between 400 and 700 Rohingyas have already fled Laldia, with many attempting border crossings despite intensified patrols. A combination of Arakan Army harassment, extortion, and military offensives is driving displacement. Border Guard Bangladesh confirmed the outbreak of violence and heightened surveillance but dismissed reports of a mass influx as exaggerations driven by brokers. The situation remains tense, with Myanmar forces reportedly preparing operations to reclaim Arakan Army-held townships in Rakhine.

Bangladesh, China strengthen semiconductor cooperation

Bangladesh and China have entered into a strategic partnership to deepen collaboration in the semiconductor sector through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association and the Hubei Semiconductor Industry Association. The agreement prioritises technical assistance in chip design, manufacturing, and academic exchange. Professor Wei Liu of Wuhan University highlighted the potential for joint research and student training, leveraging Wuhan's "Optical Valley" and its strong academic infrastructure. This initiative aligns with Bangladesh's goal of increasing semiconductor exports from under \$10 million to \$1 billion by 2030 through workforce development and policy support, while enhancing academic and industrial cooperation with China.

25 August

Bangladesh, China enhance agricultural trade

Bangladesh and China held a high-level bilateral meeting in Dhaka on 25 August 2025 to advance cooperation in agricultural trade. The talks, led by Lt. Gen. (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury and Chinese Vice Minister Wang Lingjun, centred on simplifying export-import procedures, broadening market access, and strengthening customs and quarantine collaboration to ensure food safety and plant health. Both sides stressed the importance of capacity building through joint research initiatives and training programmes, mutual recognition of inspection outcomes, and the development of digital traceability systems. Bangladesh welcomed China's approval of fresh mango imports and proposed pilot consignments of jackfruit, guava, potato, and aromatic rice, reaffirming its commitment to a constructive and long-term agricultural partnership.

BSF delegation arrives in Dhaka

A nine-member Indian Border Security Force (BSF) delegation arrived in Dhaka for the 56th Director General-level conference with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), scheduled to commence on Tuesday. The agenda includes a broad range of cross-border issues such as killings, illegal crossings, and the smuggling of drugs and arms. Bangladesh is also expected to raise concerns over infrastructure development

near the frontier, transboundary river water sharing, and embankment protection. A key point of contention will be the security implications of arming indigenous communities in Assam. This follows the February New Delhi conference, where BGB urged BSF to reduce cross-border fatalities—34 Bangladeshis have reportedly been killed during the first year of the interim government. Since May 7, more than 2,000 people, including UNHCR-registered Rohingyas, have reportedly been pushed into Bangladesh.

11 Western nations back Rohingya crisis response

Eleven Western nations, including Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and France, have reaffirmed their support for Bangladesh in addressing the protracted Rohingya crisis, eight years on from the mass influx originating in Myanmar's Rakhine State. They praised Bangladesh's humanitarian response while underscoring that conditions in Myanmar remain unsafe for voluntary repatriation. Their joint statement condemned ongoing violence and widespread human rights abuses perpetrated by Myanmar's military, called for the release of unjustly detained individuals, and stressed the importance of international accountability. In light of falling humanitarian aid flows, the countries urged greater emphasis on enhancing Rohingya self-reliance and insisted on durable solutions addressing the root causes of the crisis, reinforcing a shared global commitment to protection and justice.

BEPZA attracts 23 Chinese investors

Over the past 14 months, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) has experienced a sharp rise in Chinese investment, with 23 fully Chinese-owned firms and several joint ventures signing agreements against the backdrop of China's shift to higher-value manufacturing and escalating US-China trade tensions. In FY2024-25 alone, 33 companies invested nearly \$498 million, creating around 59,400 jobs, while early FY2025-26 has already seen \$158.8 million in new commitments, generating employment for a further 19,700 workers. Chinese firms are diversifying into garments, footwear, household goods, and protective wear. BEPZA is continuing to expand the Mirsarai Economic Zone, where 300 of the 539 available plots have already been allocated. Additional investments include a \$32 million project by China Lesso Group situated outside BEPZA's zones.

26 August

Border killings and push-ins on conference agenda



The 56th Director General-level border conference between Bangladesh's Border Guard (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF) began in Dhaka, with Bangladesh set to raise pressing cross-border issues. The agenda includes the prevention of border killings, illegal push-ins, arms and drug smuggling, and unapproved development projects near frontier areas. Dhaka also intends to highlight the recent decision in Assam to arm indigenous communities, which it views as a potential security risk. The BGB will additionally bring up transboundary river water sharing and the protection of embankments. The BSF delegation, led by Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, will participate in discussions until August 28. Previous conferences have focused on reducing border fatalities, yet 34 Bangladeshi citizens were killed in the first year of the interim government.

Malaysia denies claim of 10,000 graduate passes

Malaysia's Higher Education Minister, Datuk Seri Zambry Abd Kadir, has dismissed claims that 10,000 Bangladeshi students in Malaysia would be granted 'graduate passes' permitting employment. He clarified that no such understanding was reached during the visit of Bangladesh's interim Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus. Zambry criticised Kedah state official Haim Hilman Abdullah for spreading misinformation, which was reportedly based on a Bangladeshi newspaper article. He labelled the allegation as baseless and irresponsible, stressing the importance of academic integrity and accuracy in official communications. He also condemned the circulation of false information on social media platforms, including a TikTok video that misleadingly

suggested Bangladeshi students would soon receive employment opportunities.

South Korea and Bangladesh launch CEPA negotiations

South Korea and Bangladesh launch CEPA negotiations South Korea and Bangladesh have initiated negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), a strategic step by Seoul to expand its economic influence in South Asia amid global trade uncertainties. The first round of talks is being held in Seoul and will continue through Wednesday. According to South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, the CEPA is expected to provide Korean businesses with access to the wider Southwest Asian market, considered a region of significant growth potential. Bangladesh's robust economic performance, averaging 6.6 percent growth over the past three years, further enhances its attractiveness as a trade partner for South Korea.

Rohingya births strain hospital in Cox's Bazar

The Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh continues to deepen, with alarmingly high birth rates overwhelming limited health services in refugee camps. At Friendship Hospital in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, between 10 and 15 malnourished and often underage women give birth every day, amounting to roughly 400 deliveries each month, while the Hope Foundation records around 120 additional births. Child marriage and inadequate maternal healthcare remain widespread, with most births taking place in camp shelters or poorly equipped health facilities. With little access to contraception and minimal livelihood opportunities, the Rohingya population has grown to an estimated 1.3 million, including 32,000 annual births. Over 500,000 children remain deprived of education, while new arrivals continue to cross the border due to ongoing conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

27 August

Bangladesh urges U.S. action against Awami League activists

The Bangladesh Consulate General in New York has formally requested U.S. authorities to initiate legal action against Awami League (AL) activists who were involved in a disruptive incident during a commemorative programme on the July–August Uprising Day. According to the consulate, mem

bers of the AL USA unit attempted to violently interrupt the event, targeting chief guest and Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md Mahfuz Alam. Despite the presence of police, the activists hurled eggs, shattered a nearby office's glass door, and staged a sit-in protest that lasted until midnight. Several of them were detained. The consulate stressed that the chief guest remained unharmed, condemned the behaviour of the activists, and criticised them for spreading misinformation on social media following the failed disruption.

Global call for Rohingya genocide accountability

On the eighth anniversary of the Rohingya genocide, Fortify Rights and 57 human rights organisations have urged UN member states to ensure accountability for crimes committed by Myanmar's military. They called on the UN Security Council to refer the case to the International Criminal Court and urged governments to exercise universal jurisdiction where possible. The joint statement highlighted the lack of meaningful criminal accountability since the 2017 mass displacement of more than 700,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh and criticised the limited representation of Rohingya—especially women and youth—at the upcoming UN General Assembly. It further documented continuing abuses by both the Myanmar junta and the Arakan Army, including killings, torture, and forced conscription, underlining the urgent need for international justice and survivor participation.

EU emphasises Rohingya voices for sustainable solutions

The European Union has reiterated its commitment to ensuring that Rohingya voices remain central to achieving durable solutions to the ongoing crisis. At a recent Stakeholders' Dialogue held in Cox's Bazar, EU Ambassador Michael Miller expressed solidarity with the Rohingya and with Bangladesh, stressing the importance of coordinated political action, humanitarian support, and accountability for ongoing human rights violations.

28 August

IAEA praises Bangladesh's nuclear safety measures

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has concluded its Pre-Operational Safety Review

of Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, confirming the country's strong commitment to nuclear safety ahead of the commercial launch of Unit 1. A 14-member expert team representing eight countries assessed operational readiness, staff training, emergency preparedness, and maintenance protocols, while praising the advanced simulator at the Rooppur Training Centre as a potential model for the global nuclear industry. The review recommended strengthening fire safety measures, improving operational supervision, and enhancing equipment preservation. Bangladesh's project director underscored the importance of peer reviews in aligning national protocols with IAEA standards and reinforcing safety frameworks. A final report will be issued within three months, marking the beginning of a subsequent two-year review cycle.

16 individuals, including 13 Rohingyas pushed into Bangladesh

During the ongoing 56th Director General-level border conference in Dhaka between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF), reports emerged that the BSF had pushed 16 individuals—including 13 Rohingyas—into Bangladesh through the Baralekha border in Moulvibazar. The group included five men, four women, and four children, while the remaining three were Bangladeshi nationals originally from Bandarban. BGB immediately detained them, noting that many had previously crossed into India illegally months ago in search of employment. Since May 7, over 180 Rohingyas—including UNHCR-registered refugees—have been pushed into Bangladesh. The detained Rohingyas are being prepared for transfer to the Ukhia refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Bangladesh and Nepal explore trade expansion

A delegation from the Nepal Foreign Trade Association (NFTA), led by President Shiv Kumar Agarwal and Secretary General Jayant Kumar Agrawal, met with Bangladesh's Ambassador to Nepal, Md Shafiqur Rahman, in Kathmandu to discuss ways of enhancing bilateral trade. The NFTA briefed the ambassador on its activities to facilitate Nepal's foreign trade, including with Bangladesh. Ambassador Rahman emphasised the need to address existing barriers and called for the exploration of new avenues of cooperation. He reiterated the embassy's commitment to strengthening ties

through increased people-to-people contact and business-to-business collaboration, thereby supporting more sustainable bilateral economic engagement.

Bangladesh Navy personnel awarded UN Peacekeeping Medal

A total of 199 members of the Bangladesh Navy's Force Marine Unit (BANFMU-10), serving under the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, were awarded the UN Peacekeeping Medal at a ceremony in Juba. Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian, Force Commander of UNMISS, praised their contributions in transporting vital supplies, carrying out riverine patrols, undertaking rescue and diving operations, and ensuring the protection of UN agencies along the Nile. Since 2015, the Bangladesh Navy has remained the only marine force deployed in South Sudan, completing 71 logistical missions spanning 1,311 kilometres of riverine terrain. At the same time, BNS Sangram continues to represent Bangladesh in peacekeeping operations in the Mediterranean Sea, demonstrating sustained operational excellence.

29 August

Senxin to invest \$10.8M in Mongla EPZ

Chinese company Senxin BD Co. Ltd. is set to invest \$10.81 million in Bangladesh's Mongla Export Processing Zone (EPZ) to establish a manufacturing facility for LED bulbs and packaging materials. The investment agreement was signed at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka in the presence of representatives from both Senxin BD and the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA). The new venture is expected to generate 717 jobs for Bangladeshi workers. BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman welcomed the initiative, describing it as a sign of growing investor confidence in Bangladesh's EPZs and stressing the authority's ongoing commitment to diversifying industrial activities beyond the garment sector.

30 August

India accused of deporting Rohingyas without protections

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has accused Indian authorities of forcibly deporting Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh and Myanmar since May 2025, including at least 192 individuals registered with

the United Nations. Reports reveal that some refugees were compelled to swim ashore near Myanmar, while others fled into Bangladesh to escape arbitrary detention. HRW documented cases of assault, confiscation of belongings, and intimidation by Indian police. Although India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, it is bound by the principle of non-refoulement under international law. The expulsions are seen as part of the BJP-led government's broader campaign against so-called "illegal immigrants," raising grave concerns about human rights violations and the denial of refugee protections.

31 August

BSF kills Bangladeshi despite recent pledge

Just two days after pledging to curb border killings, India's Border Security Force (BSF) fatally shot Bangladeshi national Abdur Rahman near the Dona border point in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila. Rahman and several others had crossed into India to retrieve buffaloes when BSF personnel opened fire, killing him instantly and injuring four others. His body remained on the Indian side of the border for more than 24 hours before Bangladeshi officials intervened to secure its return. The killing underscores a troubling pattern, with at least 22 Bangladeshis reported dead at the hands of BSF in 2025 alone, and hundreds more killed or injured over the past decade.

UAE to recruit 400 Bangladeshi drivers

The United Arab Emirates' state-run Dubai Taxi Corporation has announced plans to recruit 400 Bangladeshi male drivers through a formal selection process scheduled for 9, 14, and 15 September at the Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre (BK TTC) in Kalyanpur. Recruitment will be coordinated by Al-Anas Overseas, officially authorised by the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET). A job fair will also be held at BK TTC to facilitate the selection process, representing a significant opportunity for overseas employment under the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Bangladesh seeks Chinese grant for hospitals

Bangladesh has requested a Tk3,425 crore grant from China to establish two large hospitals in Chattogram and Rangpur, aimed at expanding regional healthcare access by 2028. The proposed Chattogram facility, estimated at Tk2,627 crore, will

be a 500–700 bed tertiary hospital offering advanced clinical services, medical training, and research. The Rangpur hospital, fully funded at Tk1,480 crore, is planned as a 1,000-bed facility with specialised units including oncology and dialysis. These projects follow China's support for Bangladesh's healthcare infrastructure and are intended to ease reliance on medical travel to India, which has been restricted by post-regime visa complications. They are also expected to reduce pressure on hospitals in Dhaka and narrow healthcare gaps across regions.

Dhaka and Hanoi to launch direct flights

Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Manh Cuong announced that Bangladesh and Vietnam are working together to launch a direct Dhaka–Hanoi flight later this year. Speaking at a reception in Dhaka marking Vietnam's 80th National Day, Cuong stressed that the new route would reinforce bilateral ties and enhance economic cooperation, with trade volumes consistently surpassing \$1 billion. He highlighted shared development goals, longstanding friendship, and the importance of people-to-people exchanges. The event brought together Bangladeshi officials, diplomats, business leaders, and civil society representatives, underscoring the mutual commitment to strengthening connectivity, trade, and diplomatic engagement between the two countries.

01 September

Chinese delegation holds talks with Bangladesh UGC

A delegation from the Chinese Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC), led by Deputy Director Qian Tianqi, met with Professor SMA Faiz, Chairman of Bangladesh's University Grants Commission (UGC), in Dhaka to discuss expanding Chinese language education. The delegation stressed the growing global importance of Chinese and its role in strengthening Bangladesh's economic and technological ties with China. They proposed introducing Chinese as a major course at Bangladeshi universities and expressed interest in formalising cooperation through an MoU with the UGC. Professor Faiz welcomed the proposal and pledged to consult relevant stakeholders regarding its implementation.

U.S. envoy calls for fair elections in Bangladesh

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in Dhaka, Tracey Ann Jacobson, has reiterated that the United States does not endorse any political party, candidate, or election outcome in Bangladesh, stressing Washington's commitment to free and fair polls scheduled for early next year. Speaking after her meeting with Chief Election Commissioner A M M Nasir Uddin, Jacobson clarified that while the U.S. engages with various political actors to understand their platforms, it remains neutral. She expressed support for the interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus and the Election Commission in their efforts to ensure peaceful and credible elections that reflect the will of the Bangladeshi people.

02 September

Bangladesh, China, and UNDP launch livelihood initiative

Bangladesh, China, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have jointly launched the "Livelihoods Support for Urban Poor Communities in Bangladesh" project to boost economic resilience among marginalised urban populations. Financed by China's Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, the initiative will provide skills training, nutrition support, and small-scale infrastructure development in Dhaka North, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Chandpur. Aimed at supporting 100,000 low-income residents, the programme aligns with Bangladesh's inclusive urban development goals. It also seeks to enhance institutional capacity for sustainable urban governance and climate resilience, contributing to long-term socio-economic advancement for vulnerable urban communities.

BSF belatedly returns body of Bangladeshi national

On 29 August 2025, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel shot dead Abdur Rahman, a 40-year-old Bangladeshi from Kanaighat upazila in Sylhet, as he and several others crossed into Indian territory to retrieve buffaloes. Four people were injured in the shooting. The fatal incident occurred at the Dona border point, just two days after BSF had pledged to reduce border killings to zero during a high-level conference with Bangladesh's Border Guard. After a delay of four days, BSF handed Rahman's body to Bangladeshi

authorities at a flag meeting, following which it was released to his family in line with legal procedures.

South Korean president calls for deeper engagement with Bangladesh

At a credential presentation ceremony in Seoul, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral engagement with Bangladesh. Bangladesh's newly appointed ambassador, Toufiq Islam Shatil, conveyed greetings from Dhaka's leadership and thanked South Korea for its ongoing humanitarian support for Rohingya refugees. He also commended Seoul's efforts to build stronger ties with Global South nations and extended an invitation for President Lee to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. The meeting reaffirmed both countries' interest in expanding cooperation across development, economic, and strategic sectors.

03 September

ASEAN body proposes new conference on Rohingya crisis



ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), a platform of Southeast Asian lawmakers, has proposed holding an international conference involving Bangladesh, China, and ASEAN nations to address the Rohingya crisis. During a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna, APHR Co-Chair Charles Santiago called for both an ASEAN-led fundraising effort and a high-level political summit. Yunus reiterated Bangladesh's aspiration to become a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN to formally raise the issue. He also urged APHR to form a parliamentary platform with Bangladesh as an invitee.

Japanese MPs hail improved labour rights in Bangladesh

A visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation has lauded Bangladesh's progress in improving labour rights while urging continued reforms. "The labour environment has improved, but there is still room for further progress," said Kenta Izumi, head of the Japanese Parliamentarians' League on the ILO, after meeting Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna. Yunus reaffirmed labour reforms as a key priority of the interim government, noting Special Envoy Lutfey Siddiqi's role in implementing ILO conventions. He also sought Japanese support in deep-sea fishing, infrastructure, and expanding opportunities for Bangladeshi skilled workers in Japan.

06 September

RMG exports to US soar

Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) exports to the United States rose 21.68% in January July 2025, reaching \$4.98 billion, surpassing the global average growth of 4.98% and key competitors including China. Growth accelerated despite proposed tariff hikes under President Trump's trade recalibration—initially 35%, later reduced to 20%—prompting exporters to expedite shipments before the July 31 deadline. Bangladesh exported 1.59 billion square meters of garments, a 20.34% year-on-year increase. While Vietnam led US apparel imports at \$9.45 billion, China's exports declined sharply. Other regional exporters, including India, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Pakistan, also posted double-digit growth. BGMEA flagged potential slowdowns in August–September.

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