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# Bangladesh Foreign Policy Watch

CGS Centre for Governance Studies



## A Bi-Weekly Roundup of Key Events

### October 1

#### US suggests semi-durable housing for Rohingyas in Bangladesh



The US has suggested that providing semi-durable housing for Rohingyas and enabling them to engage in income-generating activities in Cox's Bazar could help reduce the government's refugee-related costs. Janine Wynne, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugee, and Migration, proposed this during a meeting with Bangladeshi officials, discussing the challenges faced by Rohingyas and Bangladesh due to declining global humanitarian assistance. Currently, humanitarian agencies have only received 30 percent of the \$876 million needed this year to support Rohingyas in Bangladesh. While the idea of semi-durable housing was considered, concerns about its environmental impact were raised, and involving Rohingyas in income-generating activities was met with skepticism.

### September 26

#### AIIB will grant Bangladesh \$4.5 billion



The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), led by China, will extend \$4.5 billion in funding to Bangladesh over the next five years, with a focus on climate-related initiatives and various sectors. The announcement came after a delegation from Bangladesh participated in the AIIB's annual general meeting in Egypt. Concurrently, Bangladesh has requested the AIIB to reconsider the terms of the loan. To date, the AIIB has disbursed a total of \$3.27 billion across 18 projects in Bangladesh.

## October 2

### All-Party Parliamentary Group called on Hasina



During a courtesy meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) of the UK in London, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "Democracy should continue in Bangladesh at any cost. In no way, the undemocratic forces should assume power."

The APPG delegation, led by Rushanara Ali MP. Discussions covered Bangladesh's remarkable development, investment opportunities, the Rohingya issue, and cooperation with the UK on humanitarian aid and the International Court of Justice.

The Prime Minister requested increased investment from the UK, specifically in renewable energy, mentioning that Bangladesh is establishing 100 special economic zones and 39 high-tech parks. She extended an invitation to the UK to establish a dedicated economic zone in Bangladesh, similar to those established by South Korea, India, and Japan.

## October 3

### Bangladeshi citizens return home from Myanmar

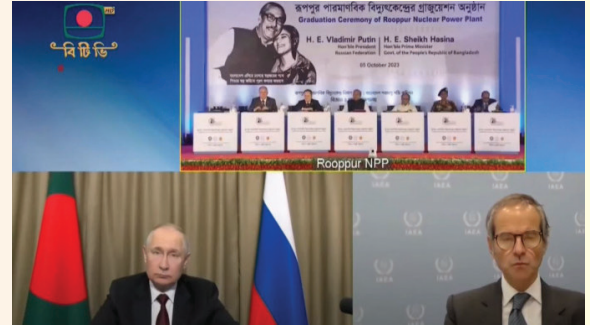


29 Bangladeshi citizens returned home after serving jail terms in various prisons across Myanmar. This repatriation followed a "Battalion Commander level flag meeting" between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Guard Police (BGP) of Myanmar.

The returnees included 23 individuals from Cox's Bazar District, 4 from Bandarban District, and 2 from Rangamati District, detained by BGP for illegally crossing the border into Myanmar.

## October 5

### Russia hands over uranium to Bangladesh



Russian President Vladimir Putin celebrated the Rooppur nuclear power plant as a symbol of enduring cooperation between Bangladesh and Russia. Attending virtually during a uranium handover ceremony in Ishwardi, Bangladesh, Putin highlighted the project's significance for Bangladesh's energy and economic security. The event was also attended virtually by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, having a 2,400MW capacity, is being constructed by Russia's Rosatom, with the first 1,200MW unit scheduled to commence operations next year.

### 11th Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue held

The 11th Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue commenced in Sylhet. The dialogue, held under the theme "Fostering a comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership," aims to strengthen bilateral ties through discussions on trade, connectivity, energy, water cooperation, and people-to-people connections.

## October 7

### US pre-election commission in Dhaka

A six-member US pre-election assessment mission has arrived in Dhaka to evaluate the possibility of sending an international election observation mission for Bangladesh's upcoming general election. Their goal is to provide impartial information on election preparation and the electoral context. The mission will issue recommendations and findings ahead of the parliamentary polls scheduled for January.

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