Aug 04 | 2026

Bangladesh Foreign Policy Review

Centre for Governance Studies

A Bi-Weekly Roundup of **Key EVENTS**



July 07

Bangladesh vows to deepen regional cooperation during BIMSTEC chairmanship

Bangladesh has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing regional cooperation under its BIMSTEC chairmanship during a meeting between State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam and BIMSTEC Secretary General Indra Mani Pandey. Pandey praised Bangladesh's leadership and highlighted the importance of closer collaboration to promote prosperity, resilience and sustainable development across the Bay of Bengal region. The State Minister reiterated the government's "Bangladesh First" foreign policy, emphasising trade, investment, connectivity, energy, climate action and people-to-people ties as key priorities. She also expressed Bangladesh's readiness to host BIMSTEC sectoral meetings to accelerate implementationof decisions and strengthen regional integration.



Bangladesh Reinforces Global Peacekeeping Commitment

Bangladesh has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its role in United Nations peacekeeping operations during high-level meetings at the UN Headquarters in New York. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed highlighted the country's long-standing contributions to global peace and security and expressed readiness to

expand future deployments. Discussions also focused on enhancing cooperation with the UN, improving mission support, and promoting environmentally sustainable peacekeeping initiatives. Bangladesh reiterated its dedication to multilateralism and continued collaboration in advancing international peace and stability.

Bangladesh, UNOPS Eye Stronger Partnership for Women's Empowerment

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has called on the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to expand cooperation with Bangladesh, focusing on women's empowerment, girls' education, and greater female leadership. During a meeting with UNOPS Country Manager Sudhir Muralidharan, she reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to multilateralism and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. UNOPS pledged continued support through technical expertise, effective project implementation, and strengthened collaboration for sustainable and inclusive development.

Bangladesh, Netherlands Deepen Partnership on Water Resources Management

Bangladesh and the Netherlands have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in water resources management through knowledge sharing, technology transfer,research, and capacity building. During a meeting with Dutch Ambassador Joris van Bommel, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne highlighted opportunities for technical collaboration and human resource development. The discussions also covered the Padma Barrage Project, the proposed Teesta Master Plan, and continued Dutch support for sustainable water management, riverbank protection, erosion control, and Bangladesh's broader socio-economic development.

July 08

Bangladesh, Tajikistan Launch New Diplomatic Framework to Expand Bilateral Cooperation

Bangladesh and Tajikistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), establishing a regular mechanism for diplomatic dialogue and strengthening bilateral ties. During their first-ever FOC in Dhaka, both countries agreed to expand



cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, culture, and regional connectivity. They also discussed forming a Parliamentary Friendship Group, promoting business exchanges, and accelerating several bilateral agreements, while reaffirming cooperation at the UN and OIC and planning the next consultations in Dushanbe.

Bangladesh, Türkiye Eye Stronger G2G Partnership to Boost Trade

Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood called for stronger government-to-government cooperation with Türkiye to help reduce the bilateral trade gap. During talks with Turkish Ambassador Ramis Şen, both sides reaffirmed commitments to expand energy collaboration, investment, and LNG cooperation while strengthening overall bilateral relations.

July 09

France Backs Airbus Partnership to Modernise Biman Fleet

French Ambassador Jean-Marc Sere-Charlet reaffirmed France's support for strengthening Bangladesh's aviation sector through closer cooperation with Airbus during a meeting with Biman Bangladesh



Airlines Chairman Rumee A. Hossain. The discussions focused on fleet modernisation, aviation infrastructure, technology collaboration, and expanding Bangladesh-France civil aviation ties, while encouraging greater participation of European companies in the country's aviation sector.

Bangladesh, China Reaffirm Strategic Defence Cooperation

Bangladesh and China reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening strategic defence cooperation during a meeting between Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen and Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam. Discussions focused on expanding technical and military collaboration, advanced training, technology transfer, cybersecurity cooperation, and enhancing regional peace and stability amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

Bangladesh Reaffirms Commitment to Bangladesh-EU Free Trade Agreement

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir reaffirmed Bangladesh'scommitment to addressing EU concerns, improving the investment climate, and removing trade barriers to pave the way for a Bangladesh-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). During talks with EU Ambassador Michael Miller, both sides emphasised timely reforms, stronger bilateral trade and investment, and close cooperation to ensure a smooth post-LDC transition.

Bangladesh, Algeria Seek Stronger Manpower and Economic Partnership

State Minister Shama Obaed Islam urged stronger Bangladesh-Algeria cooperation in recruiting skilled and semi-skilled workers while advancing energy, trade, investment, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, shipbuilding and people-to-people ties. Both sides also supported high-level exchanges and establishing a Joint Consultative Commission.

July 12

Bangladesh Reaffirms Commitment to BIMSTEC Security Cooperation

Bangladesh will send Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brig Gen (Retd.) AKM Shamsul Islam to the fifth BIMSTEC National Security Advisers' Meeting in New Delhi, reaffirming its commitment as the current BIMSTEC chair. The decision comes despite recent diplomatic tensions involving another Bangladeshi adviser in India. Dhaka has informed New Delhi through diplomatic channels and expects full adherence to international diplomatic norms and protocol, viewing the visit as an important indicator for future bilateral engagements between the two countries.

July 13

Bangladesh Highlights Women's Progress at OIC Conference, Calls for Stronger Regional Cooperation

A Bangladesh delegation, led by Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Prof. Dr. AZM Zahid Hossain, participated in the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Islamabad. On the conference sidelines, the minister met Iran's Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Zahra Behrouz Azar, to discuss cooperation in women's empowerment, education, health, and social development. Bangladesh showcased its progress in advancing women's rights, while Iran praised the country as a model for women's development.

Bangladesh Observes State Mourning for Former Qatari Amir

Bangladesh paid tribute to former Qatari Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani by declaring a half-day state mourning on 16 July. Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir signed the condolence book at the Qatari Embassy on behalf of the government, expressing sympathy to Qatar's leadership and people. A Bangladeshi delegation, led by the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, will travel to Doha to convey the country's condolences and solidarity.

Bangladesh, US Explore Stronger Cultural Partnership and Heritage Preservation

The United States and Bangladesh have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cultural cooperation during a meeting between US Ambassador BrentT. Christensen and Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury. Discussions focused on strengthening people-to-people ties through educational exchanges, heritage preservation, and joint cultural initiatives. The US highlighted a new $235,000 Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation grant, while both sides explored a bilateral cultural festival and artist exchange programmes.

Bangladesh, France Explore Stronger Partnership in Digital Technology and Satellite Development

Bangladesh and France have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in digital technology, telecommunications, research, innovation, and skilled workforce development. During a meeting with French Ambassador Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet, Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam highlighted the government's interest in developing an Earth observation satellite to strengthen disaster management, agriculture, and environmental monitoring. France expressed its readiness to support Bangladesh through feasibility studies, technology transfer, training, and joint research initiatives, further deepening bilateral scientific collaboration.

China Reaffirms Commitment to Stronger Bangladesh Partnership

The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka marked the 105th anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) with a symposium emphasising stronger Bangladesh-China relations and enhanced inter-party cooperation. Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen highlighted a newly signed MoU between the CPC and BNP during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's recent visit to China, expressing Beijing's commitment to expanding governance exchanges and practical cooperation. Political leaders, academics, and think tank representatives attended the event.

Titumir Calls for Stronger Global Partnership to Accelerate SDG Progress

Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning, Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, has urged the international community to strengthen support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through increased concessional financing, greater global solidarity, and reforms to the international financial system. He emphasised that such measures are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring a smooth and sustainable transition of LDCs after graduation from the category.

July 14

Bangladesh Reaffirms Commitment to BIMSTEC Security Cooperation

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia held high-level bilateral talks to strengthen cooperation in transport, logistics, and port development. The discussions focused on expanding collaboration in maritime connectivity, infrastructure, and supply chain management to support trade and economic growth. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral ties through greater technical cooperation and investment, while exploring new opportunities to improve transport networks and facilitate smoother movement of goods between the two countries.

July 15

Saudi Interest Signals New Momentum for Bangladesh's Logistics Sector

Saudi Arabia has expressed strong interest in expanding investments in Bangladesh's transport and logistics sectors, with particular emphasis on maritime infrastructure. During a meeting with BIDA and PPP Authority officials, Saudi representatives praised Bangladesh's improving investment climate and discussed opportunities in port development, cold storage, supply chains, and financial services. Both sides also explored modernising terminal operations through advanced technologies, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral investment and economic cooperation.

July 16

Saudi Arabia and UK Pledge $78 Million to Support Rohingya Refugees

Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom have jointly announced a humanitarian aid package worth $78 million for Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh. The funding will support food assistance, healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection services, and education, helping address urgent humanitarian needs in Cox's Bazar. The commitment reflects continued international support for one of the world's largest refugee crises while reinforcing calls for sustained global assistance and long-term solutions for displaced Rohingya communities.

July 17

Bangladesh, US Begin Annual Tiger Lightning 26 Military Exercise

Bangladesh and the United States launched the annual Tiger Lightning 26 joint military exercise with over 160 personnel participating. The training

focuses on jungle operations, counter-terrorism, tactical combat casualty care, and interoperability. Part of the US Army Pacific's security cooperation programme, the exercise aims to strengthen professional ties and operational readiness between the two armed forces.

July 19

Bangladesh Advances Labour Reforms to Strengthen Workers' Rights

Bangladesh has launched a renewed effort to improve workplace conditions through comprehensive labour sector reforms focused on decent work, social justice, and workers' rights. During a meeting with the ILO Director-General, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam reaffirmed the government's commitment to aligning labour standards with international norms. The discussions highlighted continued cooperation with the ILO to promote inclusive economic growth and ensure safer, fairer working environments nationwide.



July 20

Bangladesh Seeks India's Cooperation to Return Former Home Minister

Bangladesh has formally requested India to return former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal following his death sentence by the International Crimes Tribunal for crimes against humanity related to the July Mass Uprising. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said the request, along with a copy of the ICT verdict, was sent through diplomatic channels. Speaking at a BIMSTEC seminar, she also reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation, connectivity, economic integration, and people-centric development.

Bangladesh Calls for Stronger BIMSTEC Action on Rohingya Repatriation

Bangladesh has urged BIMSTEC member states to intensify international pressure on Myanmar to ensure the safe, voluntary and sustainable repatriation of Rohingya refugees. Speaking at a seminar marking three decades of BIMSTEC, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation, connectivity, trade, investment and the Blue Economy. Discussions also highlighted the need for stronger institutional capacity, practical collaboration and coordinated action to advance peace, resilience and sustainable development across the Bay of Bengal region.

July 22

Bangladesh, US discuss stronger bilateral ties at Manila meeting

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman in Manila on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting to discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Foreign Adviser to the Prime Minister Humaiun Kobir and US Ambassador to India and President's Special Envoy to South and Central Asia Sergio Gor. Secretary Rubio congratulated Dr Rahman on his election as President of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Bangladesh foreign minister also invited the US Secretary of State to visit Bangladesh, underscoring the shared commitment to closer engagement.



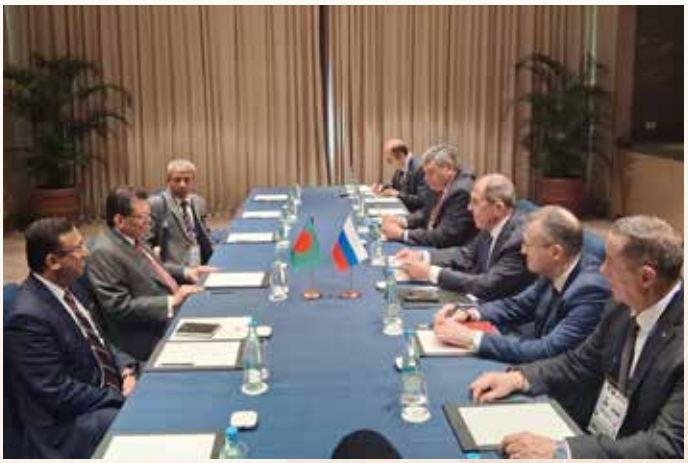
Bangladesh, China discuss Rohingya repatriation and economic cooperation in Manila

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman,

accompanied by Foreign Adviser to the Prime Minister Humaiun Kobir, held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila. The two sides reviewed a broad range of issues aimed at advancing the Bangladesh-China Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership and building a China-Bangladesh community with a shared future. Discussions covered Rohingya repatriation, transport corridors, investment, energy and wider economic cooperation, alongside other areas of mutual interest, reaffirming both countries' commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

Bangladesh, Russia pledge to deepen bilateral cooperation

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a bilateral meeting in Manila, where they led their respective delegations. The Bangladesh delegation also included Foreign Adviser to the Prime Minister Humaiun Kobir. The two ministers reviewed ongoing Bangladesh-Russia cooperation, with particular emphasis on the energy sector, and explored ways to further strengthen bilateral ties. Lavrov congratulated Dr Rahman on his election as President of the 81st United Nations General Assembly and welcomed the formation of the Bangladesh-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group as a step towards institutionalising legislative cooperation. Both sides agreed to expand collaboration across areas of mutual interest.



July 23

Bangladesh, Saudi business leaders seek stronger trade and investment ties

A delegation of the Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SABCCI), led by President Ashraful Haq Chowdhury, met State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. The delegation outlined plans to boost trade and investment through business promotion activities, international exhibitions and a Bangladesh-Saudi Investment Forum in Saudi Arabia, while seeking government support for coordination with Saudi authorities. The State Minister reaffirmed the Ministry's backing for deeper economic ties, highlighting opportunities in trade, investment, skilled workforce development, women's economic empowerment, and the promotion of Bangladesh's creative industries, handicrafts and diversified jute products.



July 26

State Minister bids farewell to outgoing IFRC Bangladesh chief

Alberto Bocanegra, Head of Delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to Bangladesh, paid a farewell call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam. During the meeting, Bocanegra highlighted the IFRC's humanitarian work in disaster preparedness, climate resilience, healthcare and support for displaced populations, while thanking the Bangladesh government for its cooperation. The State Minister praised his leadership and commended the IFRC's longstanding partnership with Bangladesh, particularly its support during natural disasters and the Rohingya humanitarian response. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration, especially on climate resilience initiatives benefiting women and children.

Bangladesh, UAE discuss migration, trade and deeper economic partnership

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam met the United Arab Emirates Ambassador

Bangladesh, UAE discuss migration, trade and deeper economic partnership

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam met the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Bangladesh to discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral relations. The State Minister raised concerns over challenges faced by Bangladeshi expatriates in the UAE and reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to safe and orderly migration. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, infrastructure, ports and ICT, while emphasising the need to expedite negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and activate the Bangladesh-UAE Joint Business Council. They also reaffirmed their commitment to expanding the longstanding partnership for the mutual benefit of both countries.

July 29

New Indian High Commissioner meets Bangladesh foreign minister

India's newly appointed High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, paid courtesy calls on Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, the meetings focused on strengthening bilateral relations. The Foreign Minister congratulated Trivedi on his appointment and assured him of the Ministry's full cooperation during his tenure. Reaffirming Bangladesh's "Bangladesh First" foreign policy, he emphasised the country's commitment to building a forward-looking and mutually respectful relationship with India based on sovereign equality, mutual trust, understanding and shared benefit.



Aug 1

PM, US envoy discuss investment, Rohingya crisis and economic cooperation

US Special Presidential Envoy for South and Central Asia Sergio Gor paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka, where the two sides discussed investment, the Rohingya crisis and broader bilateral cooperation. Gor said Washington had strong confidence in the prime minister's leadership, noting that the improved US travel advisory would encourage greater American investment in Bangladesh. The leaders also discussed a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis, cooperation with the US Food and Drug Administration, and investment opportunities in agriculture, warehousing and information technology. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Bangladesh-US economic and strategic ties.

Bangladesh joins global AI body as observer

Bangladesh has decided to join the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) as an observer, marking its first step towards participation in the newly established intergovernmental body. Headquartered in Shanghai, WAICO was formed on 16 July 2026 to promote international cooperation on artificial intelligence. Its objectives include fostering innovation, narrowing the global digital divide, supporting an open, fair and non-discriminatory environment for AI development, and advancing regulations to ensure that artificial intelligence is developed and used in ways that are safe and beneficial for humanity.

Aug 3

Australia announces AUD 25.25 million for Rohingya response in Bangladesh

Australia has announced an additional AUD 25.25 million in humanitarian assistance through UNHCR to support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh. The funding agreement was witnessed by Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and Australia's Assistant Minister Julian Hill during a signing ceremony in Dhaka. The contribution forms part of Australia's new three-year AUD 370 million humanitarian package for Myanmar and Bangladesh. During bilateral meetings, the two sides also discussed expanding regular migration pathways, tackling human trafficking, strengthening higher education

partnerships, and enhancing cooperation in skills development, energy and women's empowerment. Assistant Minister Hill is on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh.



Aug 4

Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia seek comprehensive strategic partnership

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman held bilateral talks with Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Eng. Waleed El-Khereiji in Dhaka, where the two sides agreed to deepen their longstanding partnership. Bangladesh proposed elevating bilateral ties to a comprehensive partnership covering political, economic, security and people-to-people cooperation. Discussions focused on investment, regional security, the Middle East, maritime cooperation, and the Rohingya crisis, with Bangladesh seeking continued Saudi support for refugee repatriation. Saudi Arabia expressed interest in investing in Bangladesh's ports, infrastructure and renewable energy sectors, while both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding strategic and economic cooperation.



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