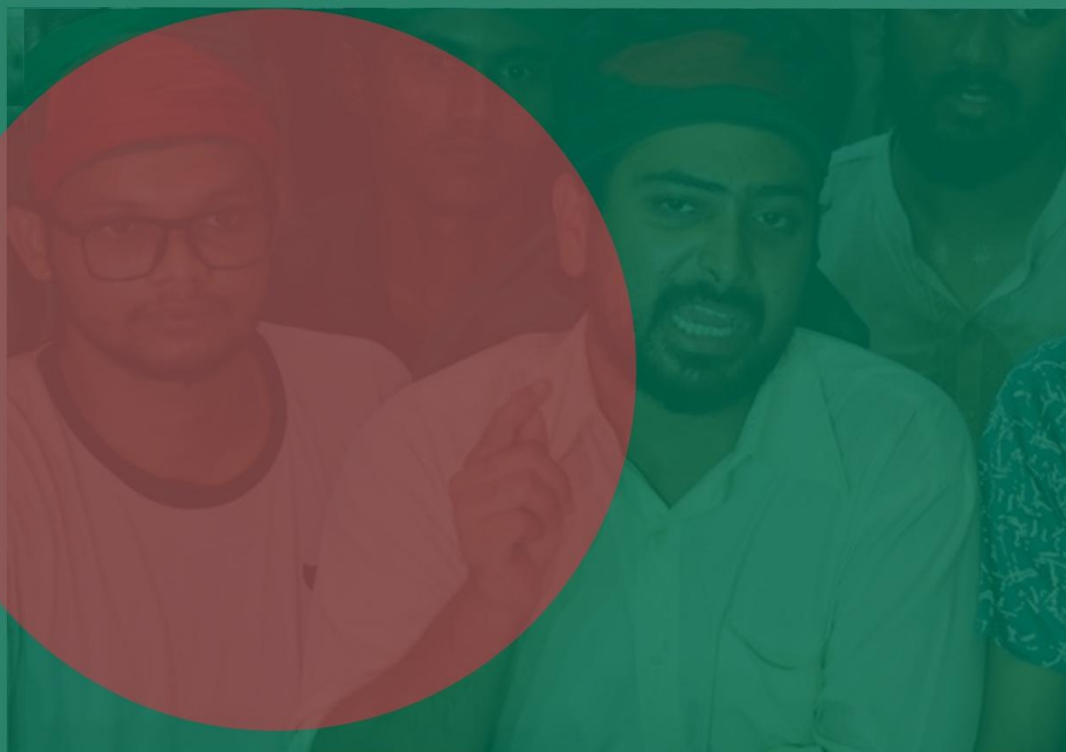
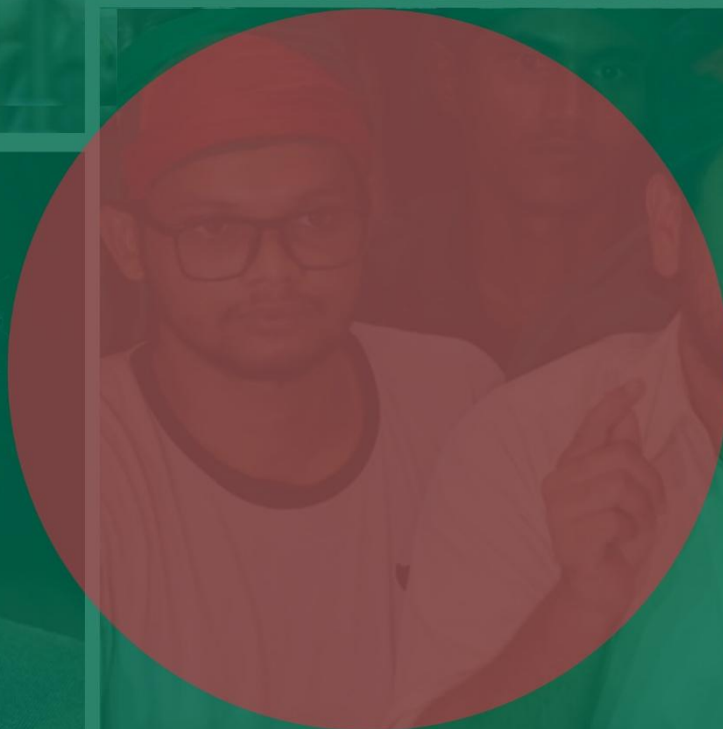
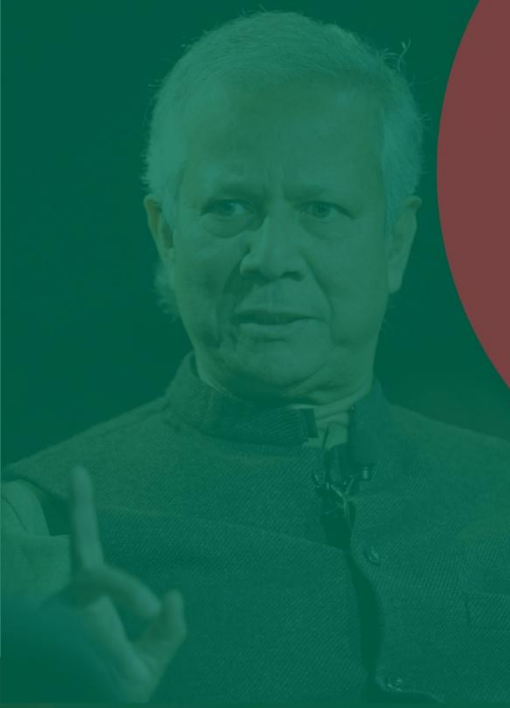


# CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anjali Manhas

### **Political Developments**

- **Student-Led Protests Renewed:** Massive rallies continued nationwide, organized by Students Against Discrimination in pursuit of justice for the more than 1,400 killed in July's movement against government job quotas. Protest leaders called for full civil disobedience until former PM Sheikh Hasina's resignation, rejecting government overtures for talks. ([ALJAZEERA](#))
- **Hasina Flees, Interim Government Consolidates:** On August 4, tens of thousands converged on Dhaka, resulting in former PM Hasina fleeing the capital via military helicopter to India. The interim government—led by Professor Muhammad Yunus—announced key reforms, including the ban on direct political activity for the Awami League and its student wing on security grounds. ([ALJAZEERA](#))
- **Key Anniversaries & Programmes:** The government declared August 5 as “July Uprising Day” and August 8 as “New Bangladesh Day,” launching official commemorations for the downfall of the previous regime. ([News On Air](#))

### **Foreign Affairs**

- **Relations with India and China:** Bangladesh's relationship with India deteriorated to historic lows following the 5 August 2024 uprising, marked by daily border incidents where India pushed people into Bangladeshi territory, causing diplomatic friction. Despite this, Bangladesh reiterates the desire for “positive relationship” with India, invoking mutual respect and changing realities. Conversely, China has strongly increased engagement with Bangladesh ahead of their 50th diplomatic anniversary, pressuring Dhaka for trilateral cooperation with Pakistan (notably through the Kunming meeting). Bangladesh maintained

that it would not join any alliance or working group but faces ongoing pressure from Beijing.

([Prothomalo](#))

- China assured continued medical support, with medical teams present in Dhaka, also in response to recent aviation-related disasters. Chinese officials reiterated their commitment to humanitarian partnership alongside bilateral ties. ([Bangla Mirror](#))
- India has imposed a ban on the import of specific jute products and ropes from Bangladesh through all land ports along their border, effective immediately. A notification by India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) states that these imports will now only be allowed through the Nhava Sheva Seaport in Maharashtra. The restricted items include both bleached and unbleached woven jute fabrics, jute twine, cordage, ropes, sacks, and bags. This move follows similar restrictions imposed earlier in June 2025 and continues a series of trade curbs announced since April and May, which also included limitations on ready-made garments, processed foods, and revoked transshipment facilities for Bangladesh. The restrictions come amidst strained bilateral relations after controversial statements by Bangladesh's interim government head and increasing competition in the textile sector. The India-Bangladesh trade stood at USD 12.9 billion in 2023–24, with India exporting significantly more to Bangladesh than vice versa. ([Dhaka Tribune](#), [The Daily Star](#), [bd News 24](#))
- **Malaysia and ASEAN Membership Support:** During his August 11–13, 2025 visit to Malaysia, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus signed eight key agreements with Malaysian leaders. These covered defence cooperation, energy supply, strategic research, education, halal industry, and migrant worker protections. Both countries agreed to boost trade, simplify worker recruitment, expand multiple entry visas, and enhance social benefits for Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia. The visit strengthened bilateral ties and highlighted

shared goals on regional peace and economic partnership. ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia](#)); ([South China Morning Post](#)); ([@ChiefAdvisorGoB](#))

- Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on August 23, 2025, to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral coordination with Bangladesh. He is set to hold a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain on August 24, alongside other engagements. This visit was postponed from April due to rising tensions between Pakistan and India following the terror attack in Kashmir. During previous talks, Bangladesh raised longstanding issues with Pakistan, including a formal apology for the 1971 Liberation War atrocities and pending financial claims. Relations began warming significantly after the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024, marked by trade resumption and visa-free entry agreements for diplomats. Recent meetings between Ishaq Dar and Touhid Hossain also covered solidarity over the Palestine crisis, political, economic and cultural cooperation, with plans for further high-level visits soon. ([Dhaka Tribune](#))
- Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam reaffirmed Bangladesh's strong commitment to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) during a recent meeting with BIMSTEC Secretary General Indra Mani Pandey at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed enhancing cooperation in key areas such as trade and investment, connectivity, energy, climate change, and people-to-people contacts. Recognizing Bangladesh's significant role in promoting BIMSTEC initiatives, Pandey emphasized the need for closer regional collaboration. As the current BIMSTEC chair, Bangladesh expressed readiness to host sectoral meetings and advance initiatives to realize a vision of a prosperous, resilient, and open BIMSTEC region. The secretary general assured full support to Bangladesh's leadership during its chairmanship. ([Dhaka Tribune](#))



- Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam highlighted the importance of enhanced collaboration between Bangladesh's Technical Training Centres (TTCs) and Australia's Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions to provide skill development and language training, including sending Australian instructors to Bangladesh. During a recent meeting with Australian High Commissioner Susan Ryle, they discussed cooperation in trade, investment, energy, migration, visa facilitation, and vocational training support. The foreign secretary expressed Bangladesh's growing demand for Australian products and requested more scholarships and promotion of regular migration to Australia. The Australian envoy welcomed the signing of a Standard Operating Procedure addressing illegal migration and affirmed Australia's readiness to deepen cooperation, support Bangladesh's multilateral initiatives, and aid the early repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

([Dhaka Tribune](#))

### **Bangladesh Border and Defence Updates**

- **India-Bangladesh Border Heightened Security :** From August 10 to 16, 2025, the Border Security Force (BSF) launched "Operation Alert" along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya. This operation involved intensified patrols, surprise naka checks, riverine patrols, and deployment of night vision equipment to prevent cattle smuggling, contraband movement, and illegal crossings. Additional troops and senior officers personally supervised the border to ensure strong security ahead of India's Independence Day on August 15. During this operation, BSF coordinated closely with Meghalaya Police.
- **Border Guard Talks Scheduled:** The 56th Director General-level border conference between India's BSF and Bangladesh's Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is scheduled to

take place in Dhaka from August 25 to 28, 2025. The conference will focus on tackling border killings, infiltration, and improving cross-border cooperation. ([The Economic Times](#))

- **Border Pushbacks and Infiltration Concerns:** The Assam Congress party raised concerns about recurring “pushback” operations involving Assam Police pushing back undocumented Bangladeshi nationals. Despite the deployment of BSF along the Assam-Bangladesh border, infiltration remains a serious challenge. Calls for improved coordination between BSF and Assam Police and enhanced technology-based surveillance were made to better address illegal crossings. ( [The New Indian Express](#))



## About the Author

Anjali Manhas is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), where she specializes in Defence and Strategic Studies with a focus on South Asian geopolitics. She completed her Master's in Defence and Strategic Studies from Rashtriya Raksha University, where she developed a strong foundation in security, international relations, and strategic analysis. Anjali's current research centers on Bangladesh, examining its security dynamics, regional relationships, and strategic posture in South Asia. Her work aims to contribute to policy development and strategic insights for enhancing regional stability and security. With a keen interest in defence and strategic affairs, Anjali is committed to advancing knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of South Asian security issues.



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