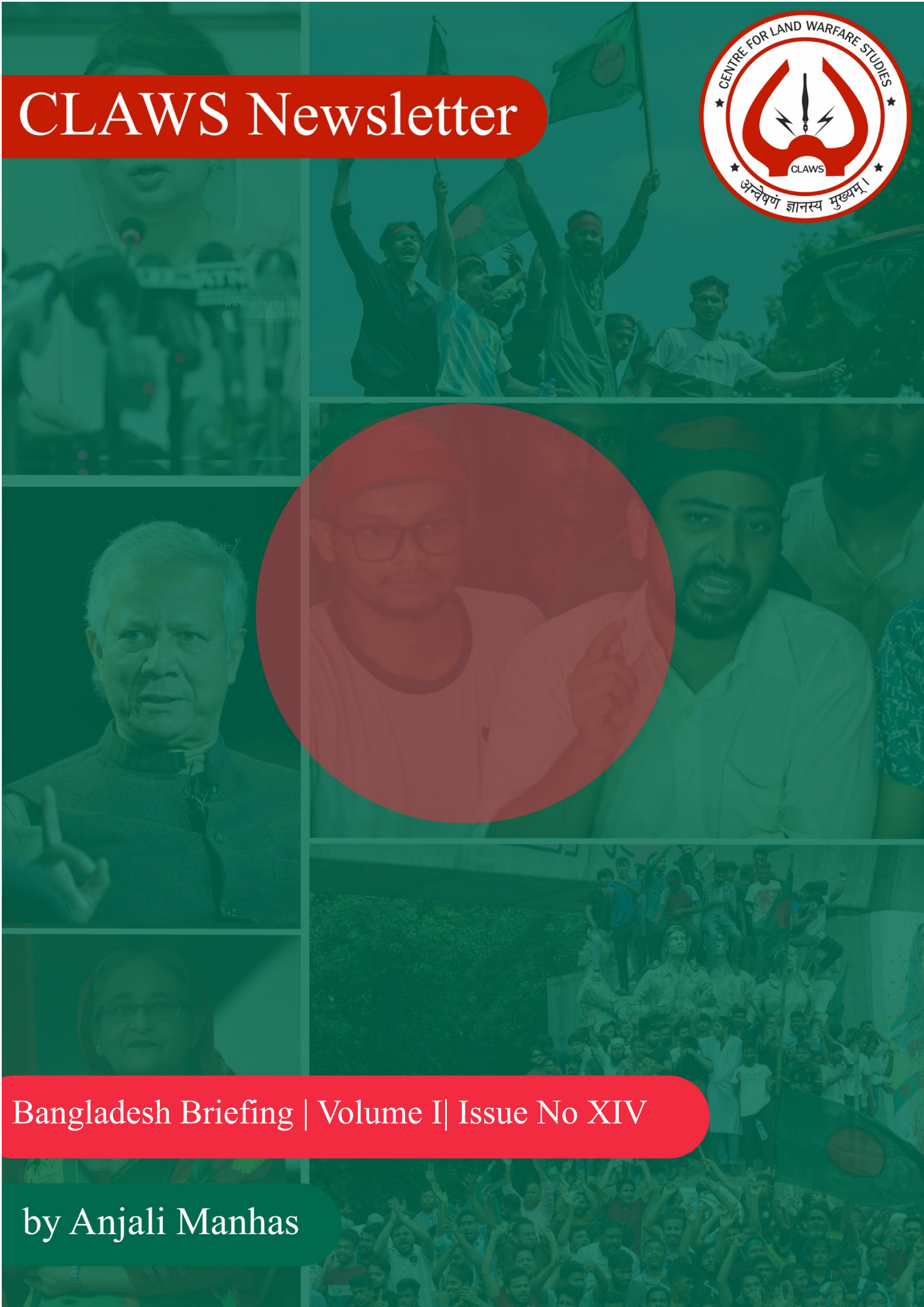


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anjali Manhas

Political Developments

- National Mourning Day marked solemnly with tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Awami League prepared to pay respects at his portrait despite political pressures. Reports of formal requests for security assurances from the interim government were denied by party leaders, amidst ongoing political tension. [dhakatribune+2](#)
- The interim government led by Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus prioritized political stabilization and drafting a roadmap for elections to be held in early 2026. Negotiations with political parties and reforms aimed at preparing a credible electoral process were highlighted. [dhakatribune+1](#)
- Political violence and law and order issues continued sporadically but saw some reduction compared to earlier months. [prothomalo](#)
- Chief Adviser Yunus convened emergency meetings with major political parties including BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the National Citizen Party on August 30 to discuss electoral preparations and address recent political violence incidents. [prothomalo](#)
- Clashes between Jatiya Party and Gono Odhikar Parishad activists led to police and army baton charges, injuring activists and fueling political tensions. A judicial probe into the violence was ordered by the interim government. [prothomalo](#)
- Various political parties condemned the violence while debating the feasibility of holding elections on schedule. [prothomalo](#)
- The Election Commission announced the detailed election roadmap focusing on voter list updates, amendments to electoral laws, delimitation of constituencies, and registration of political parties. The final voter list was scheduled to be published by November 30, 2025. [prothomalo](#)
- Political party leaders gave their reactions to the election timeline, expressing cautious optimism but also calling attention to unresolved concerns including law and order and political accountability. [dhakatribune+1](#)
- BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman warned of conspiracies and "evil forces" aiming to derail the upcoming national elections. [dhakatribune](#)
- The interim government reiterated its commitment to hold free, fair elections in February 2026 and vowed to thwart attempts to obstruct the democratic process. [prothomalo](#)
- Political discourse showed signs of warming with talks of progress in election preparations, but challenges like party rivalries and governance legitimacy remained prominent issues. [thedailystar+1](#)

Foreign Affairs

• **Bangladesh- Pakistan Relations :**

- a. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's August 2025 visit to Dhaka marked the first high-level engagement from Pakistan in nearly 15 years and initiated a significant revival in Bangladesh-Pakistan relations through numerous diplomatic, trade, and cultural agreements. [thediplomat+3](#)
- b. This meeting focused on regional cooperation via SAARC, greater youth involvement, and overcoming long-standing grievances between the two countries. [dawn+1](#)
- c. The meetings included engagements with key political figures such as Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain and leaders of major Bangladeshi parties including the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami. [indiatoday](#)
- d. Discussions covered the removal of visa requirements for specific passport holders, expanding trade, mutual cooperation in education and strategic research, and fostering youth and people-to-people linkages. [economictimes+3](#)
- e. Bangladesh formally raised historic issues, including a demand for Pakistan's apology regarding the events of 1971, settlement of assets, and the matter of stranded Pakistanis. Pakistan responded by referencing past diplomatic resolutions and emphasized ongoing dialogue rather than definitive commitments. [asiatimes+1](#)
- f. Trade expansion and reviving the Joint Economic Commission were prioritized, with plans for further meetings involving key ministers from both countries. [indiatoday](#)
- g. Pakistan announced an increase in scholarships for Bangladeshi students and training programmes for civil servants, signalling intent to boost educational cooperation. [indiatoday](#)
- h. The broader regional context highlights how improved Pakistan-Bangladesh ties could affect India's strategic interests, given the shifting alliances and new regional calculus. [asiatimes](#)
- i. Six formal agreements were reached:
 - Visa abolition for holders of diplomatic and official passports.
 - Creation of a Joint Working Group to address trade issues and enhance bilateral commerce.
 - Collaboration between Foreign Service Academies for diplomatic training.
 - Media cooperation between national news agencies.
 - Institutional partnerships between strategic studies institutes.

- Launch of a cultural exchange programme to deepen mutual understanding. [arabnews+2](#)
- **Bangladesh – South Korea Relations :** The Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between Bangladesh and South Korea took place, where both sides agreed to explore a strategic partnership. This engagement signals Bangladesh's effort to broaden partnerships beyond the immediate region. Analysts noted potential for increased investment and technical cooperation. [dhakatribune](#)
- Foreign policy experts including Indian academic Sreeradha Datta stressed the need for Bangladesh and India to "reset ties" through honest and frank dialogue focused on national interests, beyond historical grievances. This dialogue is seen as crucial for regional integration and economic development in South Asia. [thedailystar](#)
- The interim government signalled willingness to review and renegotiate any Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with India deemed non-beneficial, reflecting a more cautious and interest-cantered approach to bilateral relations post-regime change. [thedailystar](#)
- **Bangladesh-China Relations :** Bangladesh marks 50 years of diplomatic ties with China in 2025. The interim government under Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus expressed strong interest in elevating bilateral ties to new heights, emphasizing friendship, frankness, and mutual support. Yunus praised China's Belt and Road initiative and sought China's support on the Rohingya crisis and deeper cooperation in trade and defence sectors. [chinadailyhk+2](#)
- **Bangladesh-Vietnam Relations :** Continued diplomatic engagement between Bangladesh and Vietnam included formal discussions to boost bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, and security. Both countries committed to strengthening political links, facilitating people-to-people contacts, and promoting direct air connectivity to expand commerce and tourism. [vietnamplus+1](#)
- **Bangladesh-Mexico Relations :** A Bangladesh National Defence College delegation visited Mexico City in late August 2025 to deepen strategic and defence cooperation. Bangladesh's exports to Mexico reached \$716 million by mid-2025, reflecting growing economic ties. Discussions emphasized expanding trade, investment, and diplomatic engagement including a call to open a Mexican embassy in Dhaka. [bssnews+1](#)
- **Bangladesh-UAE Relations :** Stronger Bangladesh-UAE relations were evident through increased trade, workforce mobility, and investment talks. The interim government prioritized resolving visa restrictions for Bangladeshi workers and attracting UAE

investment in Bangladeshi infrastructure including Chittagong Port. UAE remains a top Gulf market and major investor. [dhakatribune+1](#)

- **Bangladesh-US Relations :** Though no new major agreements emerged in this period, the US remains Bangladesh's largest export market and a key partner in humanitarian aid, especially concerning the Rohingya crisis. The US continues support for legal reforms and defence capacity building in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's government also has emphasized on the importance of expanding exports to the United States, the largest export market, for national prosperity. The Foreign Secretary highlighted ongoing efforts and strategies to capitalize on trade avenues with the US. [dhakatribune](#) ; [dhakatribune+1](#)
- **Bangladesh-South Korea Relations :** The fourth round of Foreign Office Consultations in Seoul led to commitments to deepen political trust, trade, technological cooperation, and explore a formal strategic partnership. Emphasis was on expanding manpower migration, energy cooperation, technology sectors (AI, biotech), and support for Rohingya repatriation. [thefinancialexpress+2](#)
- **Bangladesh-Malaysia Relations :** Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus undertook an official visit to Malaysia in mid-August 2025. Both countries pledged to expedite a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), improve cooperation on investments, create halal industry zones, and coordinate on regional Rohingya crisis responses. Malaysia invited to participate in upcoming humanitarian initiatives alongside Bangladesh. [today.thefinancialexpress+1](#)

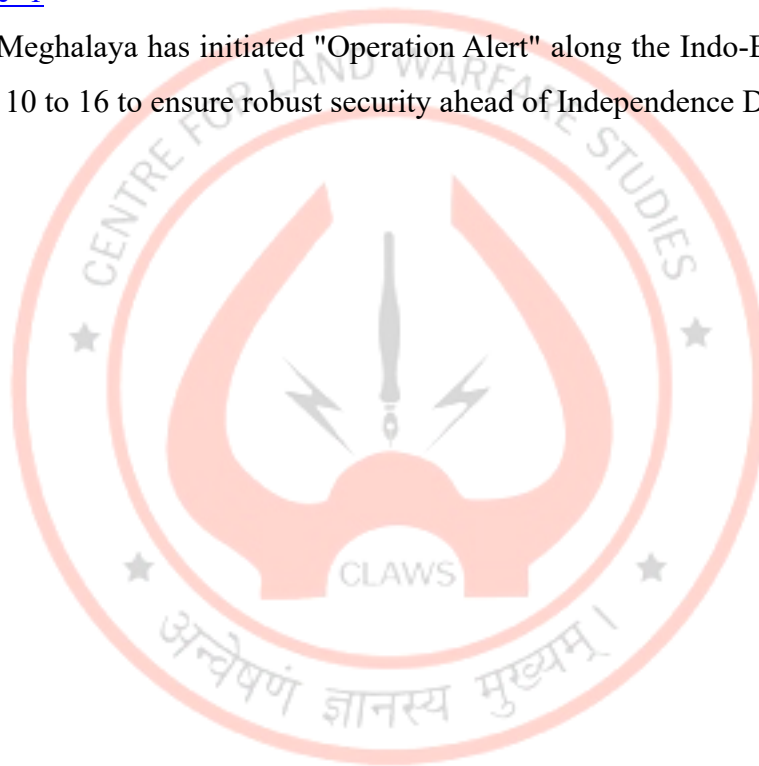
★ Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh ★

- The Rohingya crisis remains a major humanitarian and political issue in Bangladesh, sheltering over 1.3 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar. Bangladesh reiterated it has shown “extraordinary compassion and responsibility” amid severe funding shortages and growing refugee needs. [dhakatribune+1](#)
- Ahead of National Mourning Day on August 15, security was tightened in Cox's Bazar refugee camps due to concerns over inter-faction violence and fragile camp conditions exacerbated by monsoon rains. [dhakatribune](#)
- Bangladesh intensified efforts at global forums to spotlight the Rohingya crisis, urging the international community to take collective responsibility for safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriation to Myanmar under secure conditions. Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN called on Myanmar to end violence and ensure Rohingya participation in Rakhine governance. [dhakatribune+1](#)

- Reports emerged of a surge of refugees fleeing intensifying violence in Myanmar since early 2024, with an estimated 150,000 newly arrived Rohingyas joining already overcrowded camps in Bangladesh. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating with severe funding cuts forcing closure of critical services like primary education in camps. [prothomalo+1](#)
- Factional clashes inside camps led to violent incidents, alarming refugee advocates who described situations likened to hostage crises, especially affecting vulnerable children. [prothomalo](#)
- Bangladesh planned a major international Rohingya conference for late 2025, aiming to gather the UN, EU, US, China, India, and other key stakeholders to seek durable solutions. Preparations and discussions were underway to finalize the venue and invitees. [dhakatribune](#)
- The Bangladesh government emphasized that repatriation remains uncertain and called for collective international collaboration, highlighting that Bangladesh alone cannot bear the responsibility of such a large displaced population without global support. [prothomalo](#)
- A stakeholder dialogue including Rohingya representatives, civil society, UN, and Bangladesh officials convened in Cox's Bazar to discuss sustainable futures for the refugees, marking a significant inclusion of Rohingya voices in policy discussions. [thedailystar](#)
- Political pressure continued to mount inside Bangladesh from local populations affected by the prolonged refugee presence. Economic, social, and security burdens have created growing discontent, complicating the government's policy efforts. [prothomalo](#)
- International media and human rights groups spotlighted ongoing restrictions on refugee rights, lack of legal refugee status in Bangladesh, and the failure of powerful regional actors like India and China to hold Myanmar accountable for genocide. [prothomalo](#)
- Fresh arrivals from Myanmar's Rakhine State continue daily given ongoing military operations and civil conflict in Myanmar, prolonging the refugee crisis and humanitarian emergency. [prothomalo](#)

Border Security

- The 56th Director General (DG)-level Border Coordination Conference between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF) was held in Dhaka from August 25 to 28, 2025. The conference focused on enhancing cooperation to combat cross-border crimes, insurgent group activities, and managing border infrastructure and security. [aviation-defence-universe+3](#)
- Both forces committed to joint patrols, coordinated border management, and "Zero Tolerance" on terrorism and illegal activities. However, unresolved border disputes, including issues about construction close to the international boundary, persist. [awazthevoice+1](#)
- The BSF in Meghalaya has initiated "Operation Alert" along the Indo-Bangladesh border from August 10 to 16 to ensure robust security ahead of Independence Day. [ANI News](#)



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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