

CLAWS Newsletter



Bangladesh Briefing | Volume I | Issue No XVI

by Anjali Manhas

Political Developments

1. Jamaat-e-Islami Held Protest Rally with Five Key Demands **(Prothomalo)**

On 18 September 2025, Jamaat-e-Islami organized a protest rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in Dhaka. The rally, presided over by Nurul Islam Bulbul, featured speeches from senior leaders including Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher and Mia Golam Porwar. The protest demanded that the next national election be held in February based on an updated voter list, the introduction of a Proportional Representation system, a level playing field for all participants to ensure free and fair elections, visible justice for past repression and corruption, and a ban on the Jatiya Party and the 14-Party Alliance for collaborating with the current regime.

Following the rally, a march proceeded through key city locations including Purana Paltan intersection, the National Press Club, and Matsya Bhaban, possibly ending at Shahbagh. The event was part of a broader three-day nationwide program announced earlier, with planned protests in divisional cities on 19 September and in districts and sub-districts on 26 September.

2. Professor Yunus Urges Continued International Support Ahead of Bangladesh Elections **(Deshkal News)**

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus called on international human rights defenders to continue visiting Bangladesh as the country prepares for a critical national election in February. During a meeting in New York with a delegation led by Kerry Kennedy of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Yunus highlighted key reforms and efforts to address past human rights violations.

He noted that Bangladesh had started with a "completely broken system" but had since invited the UN to investigate previous killings and enforced disappearances. A UN rights mission is being set up, and a national commission is collecting testimonies from victims.

Yunus said 11 reform commissions had been formed, including one working on a July Charter aimed at major constitutional changes. He stressed the government's commitment to a free and peaceful election, aiming for the highest voter turnout in the nation's history, especially among women.

However, he warned of external attempts to disrupt the process and urged rights groups to speak out against money laundering. Human rights leaders at the meeting emphasized the need for political and security sector reforms to ensure lasting change.

3. European Parliament Delegation Visited Bangladesh Amid Democratic Transition **(Committees European Parliament)**

From 16 to 18 September 2025, five members of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) visited Bangladesh at a crucial time in the country's democratic transition following the July 2024 protests that led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government. With general elections scheduled for February 2026, the visit aimed to assess the political and human rights situation on the ground.

The delegation's mission also coincided with ongoing EU-Bangladesh negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, as well as the EU's consideration of sending an Election Observation Mission for the upcoming polls. During their stay, the Members held meetings with government officials, civil society representatives, youth leaders, and international organisations.

The DROI delegation also visited the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, where they observed the deteriorating humanitarian situation. This visit came shortly after the U.S. administration announced major cuts to USAID funding, significantly impacting the ability of international organisations to provide essential services and food to refugees.

The visit underscored the EU's continued interest in supporting democratic processes and addressing human rights challenges in Bangladesh.

4. Yunus Denied Communal Violence Allegations, Defended Interim Government's Actions **(The Business Standard)**

In an interview with Zeteo's Mehdi Hasan during the UN General Assembly, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus dismissed claims of anti-Hindu violence under his interim administration in Bangladesh, calling such reports "fake news" and denying communal persecution. He claimed that protests by 30,000 Hindus and criticism from former US President Donald Trump were politically motivated. Addressing delays in elections, Yunus justified the 18-month timeline by citing the need for reform and justice before polls.

He also responded to concerns over banning the Awami League, stating it was not banned but had political activities suspended due to alleged disruptions. Regarding India, Yunus said Prime Minister Modi wished to retain ousted PM Sheikh Hasina but couldn't stop her from speaking online. He defended restoring the anti-Israel passport clause, aligning with public sentiment.

Despite economic positives like favorable US tariff negotiations, Yunus's interim government faced criticism over rising crime, including record-high robbery cases and police casualties following Hasina's removal. He admitted to being surprised at assuming leadership after mass student protests led to the fall of Hasina's government.

5. *BNP's Moeen Khan Urged Recognition of Changed Political Reality* ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

On 30th September 2025, BNP Standing Committee member Dr Abdul Moeen Khan visited the Durga Puja mandap at Seba Sangha in Narsingdi, where he stated that Bangladesh's political and social situation had changed significantly over the past year. He emphasized the need for people to stay alert against injustice, repression, and corruption. Khan called for a free and fair election to reflect the people's true choice, stating that whoever is elected by the people will be welcomed. Linking his message to the spirit of Durga Puja, he said the festival symbolizes resistance against injustice and praised the joint celebration by Hindu and Muslim communities in Narsingdi.

6. *Bangladesh Finalizes Climate Action Plan NDC 3.0* ([The Bangladesh Today](#))

Bangladesh held a "Validation Workshop on the Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)" at the Department of Environment (DoE) in Agargaon, Dhaka. The meeting was attended by Syeda Rizwana Hasan (Adviser to the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources), along with Dr. Farhina Ahmed (Secretary), Mohammad Navid Shafiullah (Additional Secretary), Dr. Md. Kamruzzaman (DoE Director General), Joint Secretary Dharitri Kumar (moderator), and representatives from various national and international organizations.

The purpose of the workshop was to review and finalize Bangladesh's updated climate action plan (NDC 3.0), which aims to reduce 84.92 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 2035. Out of this, 26.7 million tonnes will be reduced unconditionally, and 58.2 million tonnes

conditionally, based on receiving international support. To implement this plan, Bangladesh will need a total of USD 116.8 billion — with USD 25.95 billion from its own resources and USD 90.23 billion from international support.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan highlighted that NDC 3.0 is not just about cutting emissions but about building an inclusive, just, and climate-resilient future. She emphasized the involvement of women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and climate migrants. She also stressed the importance of climate education, green jobs, renewable energy, and making key sectors like health, agriculture, and infrastructure more climate-friendly.

The Adviser called for collaboration among government, civil society, private sector, and development partners to ensure the successful implementation of the plan.

7. *Bangladesh's Leather Industry Struggles to Break \$1 Billion Export Barrier* ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

Bangladesh's leather industry has faced challenges for over a decade in surpassing the \$1 billion export mark, hindered by infrastructure gaps, environmental non-compliance, and lack of investment, according to industry leaders and economists. The incomplete Savar Tannery Estate and poorly maintained Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) have prevented tanneries from obtaining crucial Leather Working Group (LWG) certification, limiting access to premium global markets. As a result, Bangladesh mainly exports lower-value semi-processed leather, unlike neighbouring countries with many LWG-certified tanneries.

The sector also suffers from outdated technology, fragmented supply chains, poor pricing systems, and labour rights issues. Experts suggest urgent reforms, including completing and upgrading Savar facilities, promoting LWG certification through incentives, improving export diversification, and supporting SMEs. Despite abundant raw hides and government support, Bangladesh's leather industry remains “trapped” below its \$5 billion potential for 2030.

Foreign Affairs

***1. Palestinian Ambassador Met Khaleda Zia, Discussed Gaza Crisis* [\(Dhaka Tribune\)](#)**

On 30 September 2025, the Ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh, Yousef S Yail Ramadhan, paid a courtesy visit to BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence in Gulshan, Dhaka. During the meeting, Khaleda Zia strongly condemned Israel's ongoing attacks on Gaza, expressed sorrow over the civilian casualties, and called for an immediate end to the war. Ambassador Ramadhan recalled the historical support of the BNP and the Zia family for Palestine. He noted that under the leadership of the late President Ziaur Rahman, land for the Palestinian Embassy in Dhaka was provided free of cost, and later, during Khaleda Zia's tenure, the BNP government financed the construction of the embassy building.

The ambassador praised these actions as symbols of longstanding solidarity between the BNP and the Palestinian people. BNP leaders Dr Mohammad Enamul Haque Chowdhury and ABM Abdus Sattar were also present at the meeting.

***2. Bangladesh Home Adviser Attends Saudi National Day Reception* [\(BSS News\)](#)**

On September 22, 2025, Bangladesh's Home Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury attended a reception hosted by the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka to mark the 95th National Day of Saudi Arabia. Speaking as the chief guest at the event held at Hotel Sheraton, he said Saudi Arabia held a special place in the hearts of Bangladeshis, being not only the holy land of Islam but also the "second home" to over 3.2 million Bangladeshi expatriates. He noted that the remittances from expatriates were a pillar of Bangladesh's economy and highlighted Saudi Arabia's continued support for their welfare as a sign of strong bilateral friendship. The adviser praised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030, calling it a bold initiative for economic transformation, and commended his role in regional stability and Muslim unity. The event was also attended by Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Jafar H. bin Abiyyah, diplomats, officials, business leaders, and public figures.

3. Bangladesh Condemns Israeli Attacks in Gaza, Calls for Urgent Global Action at OIC Meeting ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs @BDMOFA](#) ; [Dhaka Tribune](#)) ; [BSS News](#))

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh officially condemned Israeli military actions in Gaza on September 28, 2025, reaffirming its long-standing support for the Palestinian cause. Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, speaking at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting during the 80th UN General Assembly session, urged the international community to take urgent and decisive action to end the Israeli occupation and violence in Palestine. He emphasized that lasting peace in the Middle East requires justice and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, highlighting Bangladesh's active role in promoting collective Islamic solidarity and calling for effective reforms within the OIC. The statement underscored Bangladesh's condemnation of Israeli military aggression and the humanitarian crisis caused by the occupation, while calling for immediate ceasefire and humanitarian access to Gaza.

4. EU Exploratory Mission Engages Bangladesh Election Commission to Assess 2026 Parliamentary Election Observation ([BSS News](#) ; [Prothomalo](#) ; [The Bangladesh Today](#))

The seven-member European Union (EU) exploratory mission, led by senior election expert Riccardo Chellery, met with Bangladesh's Election Commission (EC) officials on, September 22, 2025. The purpose of the visit was to assess the electoral environment and discuss preparations for the upcoming 13th National Parliamentary Elections scheduled for early February 2026. The mission's fact-finding aimed to determine whether the EU should send an official observation team for the elections.

The meetings were held in two phases at the EC office in Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka:

From 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, the EU team met with four senior EC officials, led by Joint Secretary Md. Moin Uddin Khan. Discussions covered the EC's preparedness, legal reforms, voter registration, postal ballot systems, and the overall political situation affecting free and fair elections.

From 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the EU delegation held a separate meeting with Election Commissioner Brigadier General (Retd) Abul Fazal Md Sanullah. The EU team asked detailed questions about election management, including access to polling stations, secrecy of the polling officer's room, and presence during vote counting.

The EU mission emphasized the importance of law and order, security, and impartiality in the election process. The team also planned field visits to Rangpur and Chattogram to gauge the electoral environment on the ground. Based on the findings, the EU will decide on the deployment of a large-scale observation mission, expected to include about 150 observers.

The EC officials welcomed the EU engagement, believing it would help enhance transparency, credibility, and participatory democracy in Bangladesh's elections. A tripartite memorandum of understanding will be signed between the EU, Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry, and EC to facilitate the observer mission. The deployment is expected to take place in phases after the official election schedule announcement, with observers monitoring electoral processes up to the publication of election results.

The meetings concluded with positive feedback from the EU team, who expressed satisfaction with the preparations observed, pending clarification of formal arrangements before finalizing the observer mission.

5. *BIMSTEC Highlights Role in Boosting Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity* ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

At the 3rd Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave held in Kolkata on September 18–19, BIMSTEC Secretary General Indra Mani Pandey emphasized BIMSTEC's growing role in enhancing trade, investment, connectivity, and SDG cooperation to support security and development in the Indo-Pacific region.

He highlighted progress in maritime, surface, and digital connectivity, and discussed regional cooperation efforts in areas like business, people-to-people links, and the **Blue Economy** during a Fireside Chat with expert **Prabir De**.

The event brought together policymakers and business leaders to discuss clean energy, sustainability, and economic challenges, with BIMSTEC seen as a key platform for linking **South and Southeast Asia**.

He noted the potential of **maritime partnerships**, where Bangladesh—due to its long coastline and ports like **Chittagong and Mongla**—has much to contribute.

6. *Bangladesh Denies UAE Visa Ban Amid Confusion and Past Restrictions* ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

Bangladesh's Ambassador to the UAE, Tareq Ahmed, has denied reports that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) imposed a visa ban on Bangladeshi citizens. The clarification came after travel site uaevisaonline.com claimed that Bangladesh was among nine countries facing a visa restriction, causing widespread confusion on social media and in the press.

Ambassador Tareq confirmed that no official communication was received from the UAE government regarding any such ban. He also clarified that the source of the claim is not an official UAE authority but a private visa processing platform, which may have spread misleading or malicious information.

7. *Bangladesh Ready to Increase Imports from US to Strengthen Trade Ties* ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said that Bangladesh is ready to buy more products from the United States to help create a fairer and stronger trade relationship. He hopes this will lead to lower taxes (tariffs) on Bangladeshi goods going to the US in the future. He made these comments during a meeting in Dhaka with Brendan Lynch, a top US trade official. They discussed many areas of cooperation, including trade, energy, agriculture, and development. Recently, the US reduced tariffs on Bangladeshi exports from 35% to 20%, which is a big step forward. Prof Yunus thanked the US for this and said it will help Bangladesh's economy. Bangladesh now plans to import more American goods, like cotton, soybeans, LPG gas, and aircraft, and also wants more US investment in health and education. The two sides are also working on a new trade agreement, and Bangladesh is improving its labour rights to meet US standards. The US praised Bangladesh for its serious and cooperative approach, and both sides agreed to keep working together for a stronger economic partnership.

8. *Bangladesh and Oman* ([Foreign Ministry of Oman](#))

On September 22, Bangladesh and Oman signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on diplomatic training cooperation during a meeting between Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi and Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain at the UNGA in New York. The agreement aims to boost diplomatic cooperation and joint training programs.

9. *Bangladesh-Turkey* ([The Business Standard](#))

Bangladesh will host the fourth Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) with Turkey on 7 October 2025 in Dhaka, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties. The meeting will be led by Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam and Turkey's Deputy Minister A Berris Ekinci. Discussions will cover regional and global issues including the Middle East, the Gaza peace plan, South Asian political developments, trade, defence, and the Rohingya crisis. With bilateral trade reaching \$1.1 billion, both countries seek to enhance cooperation and diversify economic opportunities.

[\(Dhaka Tribune\)](#)

Bangladesh and Turkey have agreed to jointly organize a global conference titled “**Women in Islam**” in early 2026, aiming to promote women's rights within Muslim-majority societies. The agreement was made during a bilateral meeting in New York between Bangladesh's Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen Murshid and Turkish Social Services Minister Mahinur Özdemir Gökteş.

10. *Bangladesh's involvement in the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session* ([YouTube video of his address](#) ; [UN Web TV streaming of Bangladesh's General Debate participation](#) ; [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha \(BSS\)](#) ; [UN News'](#))

Pre-UNGA Departure

- September 22, 2025: Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus departed Dhaka for New York to participate in the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The delegation accompanying him included senior political leaders from major parties within Bangladesh: BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP leader Humayun Kabir, Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, and National Citizen Party leader Akhter Hossen, highlighting an inclusive political representation. Senior government officials such as the Chief Adviser's Press Secretary and Foreign Secretary also accompanied the delegation, reflecting Bangladesh's serious diplomatic intentions at the UNGA.

UNGA General Debate and Related Events

- September 23-27 and 29, 2025: The UNGA General Debate took place, under the overarching theme "Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights." This platform provided Bangladesh an opportunity to put forward its national and regional priorities.
- September 25, 2025: Prof Yunus actively participated in the High-Level Meeting that commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth. He focused on the key role played by Bangladesh's youth in the country's ongoing democratic reforms, emphasizing youth empowerment as a cornerstone for sustainable development and political evolution.
- September 26, 2025: This marked the day of Bangladesh's national statement delivery at the UNGA. Prof Yunus articulated the government's commitment to implementing significant reforms following the mass uprising in July 2024. His speech reiterated the promise of conducting a free, transparent, and inclusive general election in February 2026, stressing that the democratic aspirations of the people were at the heart of these activities.

Besides domestic reforms, the Chief Adviser addressed several pressing global issues:

- The importance of peacekeeping and Bangladesh's continued robust contributions as one of the leading troop contributors to UN peacekeeping forces.
- Climate change challenges and the country's demand for climate justice, focusing on the vulnerability of developing countries.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Bangladesh's efforts to align its policies with the global agenda.
- The problems of illicit financial flows and the need for equitable financial systems.
- Safe migration policies and protection of migrant workers' rights.
- The adaptation and ethical use of technology, particularly sustainable technology transfers in the AI era.

- A call for global ceasefire and immediate peace in Palestine, aligning with Bangladesh's principled foreign policy on this issue.

Rohingya Crisis and Special Events

- September 30, 2025: Bangladesh hosted its landmark achievement at the UN with the first-ever High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar. This event came following Prof Yunus's initiative and proposal last year which garnered unanimous support from UN member states. Ahead of the conference, Bangladesh organized the first "Partners' Dialogue" in Cox's Bazar involving Rohingya community representatives and international partners, which aimed to deepen cooperation for addressing humanitarian, legal, and repatriation challenges.

The conference itself was instrumental in mobilizing global commitment, including time-bound deliverables for resolving the Rohingya crisis, improved humanitarian aid funding, and political pressure on Myanmar for human rights compliance. The event showcased Bangladesh's leadership in international humanitarian advocacy.

Bilateral Meetings and Diplomacy

- Throughout the UNGA session, Prof Yunus conducted numerous high-level bilateral meetings with several global leaders. Notable discussions on September 24 included:
 - Meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, where dialogue focused on regional cooperation, trade, democratic transition support, and Rohingya issues.
 - Talks with leaders from Italy, Finland, and Kosovo that sought to bolster economic ties, support democratic reforms, and address regional security concerns.

The bilateral engagements allowed Bangladesh to strengthen diplomatic ties, seek support for its democratic transition, and advance its economic and humanitarian agendas.

- Prof Yunus also participated in high-profile receptions hosted by the UN Secretary-General and U.S. President Donald Trump, fortifying Bangladesh's international profile.

Multilateral Engagements by Other Delegates

- Parallel to Prof Yunus’s activities, Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain represented Bangladesh in various key multilateral forums during the UNGA:
 - Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting
 - Peacebuilding Commission Ministerial
 - G77 and China Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
 - Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network
 - Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Annual Coordination Meeting
 - BIMSTEC and CICA ministerial meetings, among others.

These engagements reinforced Bangladesh’s role in multilateral diplomacy across developmental, security, and humanitarian issues.

Media and Public Diplomacy

- Due to Bangladesh’s high-profile presence at the UNGA, Prof Yunus received multiple interview requests from global media outlets and invitations to participate in international programs like NRB Connect and Asia Society sessions. These platforms were used to articulate Bangladesh’s democratic transition journey and its foreign policy priorities.

Return and Follow-up

- The delegation is expected to return to Bangladesh on October 2. This UNGA session, themed “Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights,” offers Bangladesh a platform to showcase national unity, advance its international priorities, and highlight ongoing efforts toward democracy and development ahead of the crucial 13th National Parliamentary Elections planned for early 2026.

11. Uzbekistan and Bangladesh Sign Visa-Free Agreement for Diplomatic Passport Holders
(Kazinform International News Agency) ; (BSS News)

Bangladesh and Uzbekistan signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on the abolition of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports. The agreement was signed during a bilateral meeting between Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain and Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York.

The two nations agreed to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, higher education, and manpower export. Bangladesh expressed interest in sending semi-skilled and skilled workers to support Uzbekistan's growing economy. Educational exchanges and student mobility were also discussed as key areas of collaboration

12. Bangladesh Home Adviser Attends Saudi National Day Reception (BSS News)

On 22 September 2025, Bangladesh's Home Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury attended the Saudi Embassy's reception in Dhaka celebrating Saudi Arabia's 95th National Day. He emphasized Saudi Arabia's special significance to Bangladesh, noting over 3.2 million Bangladeshi expatriates live there and their remittances support Bangladesh's economy. He praised Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 for economic transformation and his efforts in promoting regional stability and Muslim unity. The event was attended by Saudi diplomats, officials, and business leaders.

Rohingya in Focus: Latest Updates

1. *UN High-Level Conference on Rohingya Crisis* (Human Rights Watch)

On September 30, 2025, a high-level conference was held at the United Nations headquarters focusing on the plight of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. The conference aimed to address the humanitarian emergency and the geopolitical deadlock that perpetuates it, seeking a comprehensive, sustainable solution for the crisis.

Bangladesh played a central role in the conference. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus presented a seven-point plan urging the international community to renew focus and increase support for the Rohingya. Yunus emphasized urgent financial aid needs and called for a political solution involving all stakeholders to enable safe, dignified, and voluntary return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. He highlighted the critical funding shortfalls threatening food rations and humanitarian support, warning of escalating hunger and deprivation in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, where approximately 1.3 million Rohingya reside.

The conference underscored grave ongoing abuses inside Myanmar's Rakhine State, including ethnic cleansing, apartheid-like conditions, and escalated violence from both Myanmar's military junta and ethnic armed groups like the Arakan Army. It was noted that conditions for safe return do not yet exist. The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres urged the international community to exercise restraint, protect civilians, and support refugee communities and host regions.

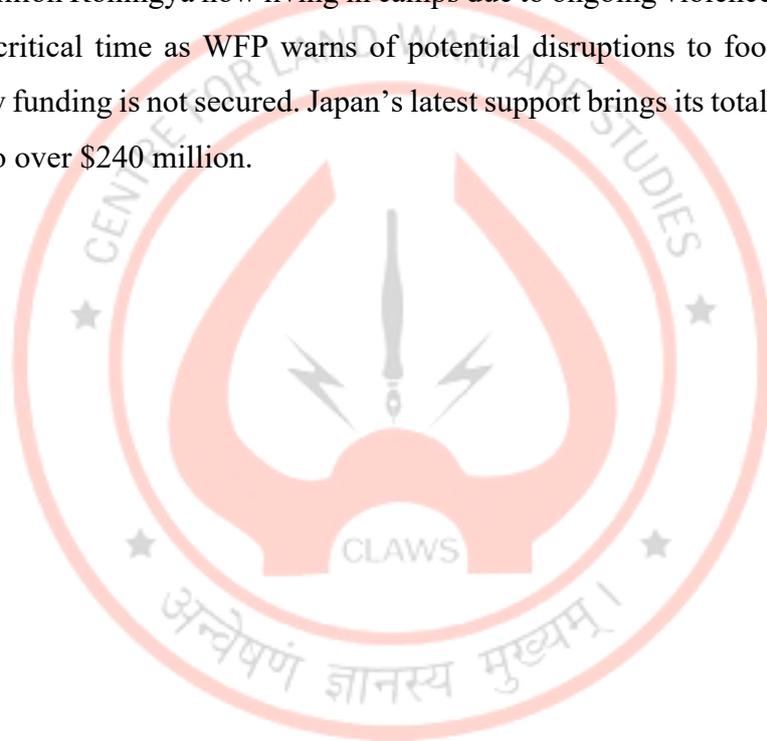
Human rights organizations and UN officials called for strengthened international solidarity, increased funding, and enhanced humanitarian access. The conference also recognized the significant challenges faced by Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, including restrictions on education, livelihoods, and safety threats within camps.

Despite the focus on Rohingya welfare, no Rohingya refugees from the camps were able to attend the conference, raising concerns about their representation in global decision-making.

2. *Japan Pledges \$3.4 Million to Support Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh* ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

Japan has committed \$3.4 million (500 million yen) to support Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities in Bangladesh, amid growing concerns over declining humanitarian funding. The contribution, announced by the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka, will be used by the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide monthly food and nutrition assistance to 100,000 Rohingya and 2,000 Bangladeshis.

With over 1.1 million Rohingya now living in camps due to ongoing violence in Myanmar, this aid comes at a critical time as WFP warns of potential disruptions to food assistance from December if new funding is not secured. Japan's latest support brings its total Rohingya-related aid since 2017 to over \$240 million.



Bangladesh Defence

1. *US-Bangladesh Strengthen Defence Ties Through ‘Pacific Angel 25’ Exercise* (*Dhaka Tribune* ; *New Age* ; *US Embassy in Bangladesh*)

The United States and Bangladesh have expanded their defence and humanitarian partnership through Exercise Pacific Angel 25, a seven-day multilateral training program **focused on** humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The exercise is being held at Zahurul Haque Cantonment in Chittagong, with participation from 92 US and 90 Bangladesh Air Force personnel, along with officers from Sri Lanka and the Oregon Air National Guard.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson observed the event alongside senior Bangladesh Armed Forces officials, emphasizing the growing military and humanitarian cooperation between the two nations.

The training covers key areas like medical readiness, air safety, engineering support, and disaster management. The goal is to improve interoperability, boost regional resilience, and strengthen the capacity to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. According to the US Embassy, Pacific Angel 25 reflects the shared commitment of Washington and Dhaka to promote regional peace, security, and disaster preparedness, reinforcing their broader strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

2. *U.S. to Help Bangladesh Launch Drone Facility* (*Global Defense Corp*)

The U.S. (under what the article calls the “Trump administration”) is reportedly planning to establish a drone facility in Bangladesh, in partnership with Bangladesh’s Army and Navy. The plan involves forming a joint regiment composed of personnel from both services, tasked with manufacturing and operating advanced unmanned aerial systems (UAS). One specific system cited is the RQ-21 Blackjack, which would be used for maritime domain monitoring, border security, and participation in peacekeeping operations. The news article also notes that Bangladesh and the U.S. have conducted several joint military exercises in recent months—“Tiger Lightning,” “Tiger Shark,” and “Pacific Angel” are named—to deepen their defense ties.

3. Bangladesh Navy Quietly Begins RQ-21 Blackjack Drone Operations in Bay of Bengal
(Bangladesh Military Forces)

The Bangladesh Navy has quietly started operating the Boeing/Insitu RQ-21 Blackjack unmanned aerial system (UAS) over the Bay of Bengal. The first flights reportedly took place on 24 September, shortly after Bangladesh received multiple U.S.–made drones, some for its Navy and some for its Army. Although there has been no formal induction ceremony, source cited suggests that the Navy has already deployed the RQ-21 for active surveillance missions within Bangladesh’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The missions likely cover maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) tasks—such as monitoring sea lanes, fisheries, detecting illegal activities, and ensuring maritime security. The RQ-21 Blackjack is a tactical UAS suitable for both land and sea operations. According to the article, it has an endurance of over 16 hours and a range exceeding 50 nautical miles.

4. Bangladesh and Turkish Air Forces Strengthen Defence Ties
(Bangladesh Military Forces)

On 23 September 2025, the chiefs of the Bangladesh and Turkish Air Forces met in Dhaka to enhance bilateral defence cooperation. The visit focused on expanding collaboration in aviation training, technology sharing, and maintenance support. Türkiye has already contributed significantly to Bangladesh’s air capabilities through platforms like the Bayraktar TB2 drones and Roketsan systems. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening ties under Bangladesh’s Forces Goal 2030 modernization plan. This meeting marks a continued effort by Bangladesh to diversify its defence partnerships while Türkiye increases its strategic footprint in South Asia.

5. Bangladesh’s Military Intelligence Deepens Ties with Pakistan’s ISI Amid Regional Tensions
(The Economic Times)

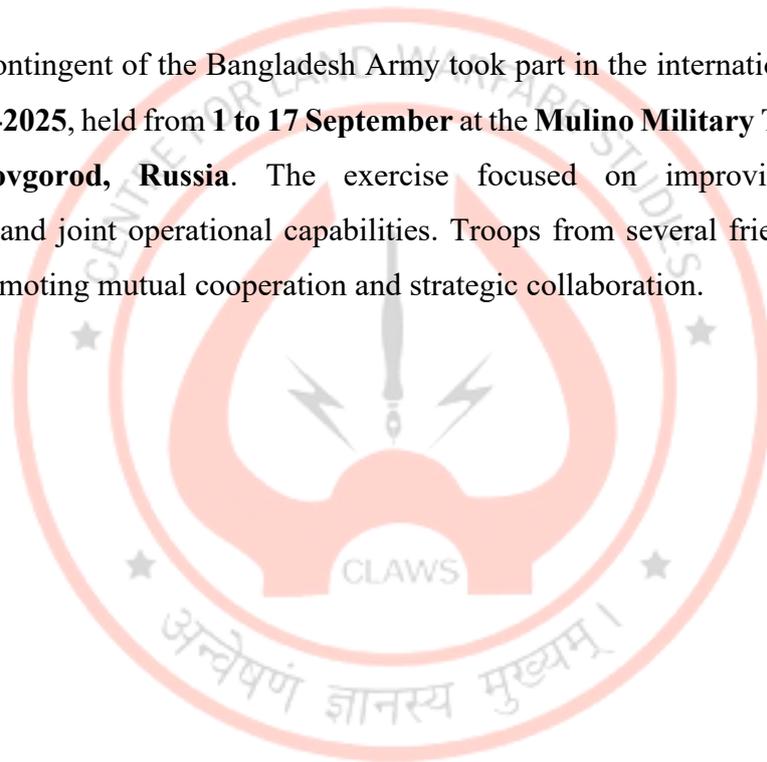
Under the interim government, Bangladesh’s DGFI is strengthening cooperation with Pakistan’s ISI to counter India’s influence in South Asia. A DGFI delegation is currently in Pakistan for confidential talks, reportedly traveling under new identities without formal immigration checks. This follows earlier ISI efforts to regain foothold in Bangladesh, with support from certain factions within the Bangladesh Army and Islamist groups. These developments raise concerns over shifting regional security dynamics.

6. *Bangladesh Army Chief Visits China to Boost Military Ties* ([Bangla Press](#))

Army Chief of Staff General Waker-uz-Zaman embarked on a six-day official visit to China, as confirmed by a press release from the Bangladesh Army on Thursday. The tour aims to strengthen bilateral military cooperation between Bangladesh and China. During the visit, General Waker-uz-Zaman is scheduled to hold talks with Chinese military and civilian officials and engage in courtesy meetings with high-level dignitaries. He is expected to return to Bangladesh on 27 August.

7. *Bangladesh Army Participates in Russia's 'WEST-2025' Joint Military Exercise* ([The Business Standard](#))

A 37-member contingent of the Bangladesh Army took part in the international joint military exercise **WEST-2025**, held from **1 to 17 September** at the **Mulino Military Training Ground** in **Nizhny Novgorod, Russia**. The exercise focused on improving coordination, responsiveness, and joint operational capabilities. Troops from several friendly nations also participated, promoting mutual cooperation and strategic collaboration.



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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