

AUGUST 2025

# The AMBASSADOR

DIPLOMACY | DEFENSE | GLOBAL AFFAIRS



**A YEAR OF REFLECTION:**



**THE ENDURING INFLUENCE**

# BEHIND The AMBASSADOR

Editor  
**Dr Arifur Rahman**

Advisor  
**Lieutenant General (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman PhD**  
**Professor Dr Mohammad Tarikul Islam**  
**Moshiur Ahmed**  
**Imtiaz Ahmed**

Executive Editor  
**Nazmul Hasan**

Editor: UN, Human Rights, and Rohingya Affairs  
**Shakhawat Khan**

Editor: Tourism and Hospitality  
**Mizanur Rahman**

Assistant Editor  
**Md Rashidul Hasan Chowdhury**

Bureaucracy Board  
ASEAN Bureau Chief  
**Haji Md. Metussin Hj Abd Wahab**

Bureau Chief Bhutan  
**Mr. Penjor**

Bureau Chief East Africa  
**Ambassador Abdirrazak Siyad Abdi**

Bureau Chief Canada  
**Mohammed Tareq Khan**

---

Publisher  
**S.Mahbub**

Our Address:  
**Flat :F2, Lift-5, House:10, Road:16/A, Gulshan-1, Dhaka**

# THE NEW TREN D O C

**05** One Year of The Interim Government: Reform, Stability, And a New Horizon of Hope

**13** From Labor Export to Skilled Workforce: Bangladesh's Global Expansion Strategy

**19** Bangladesh's UN Peacekeeping Leadership: Soft Power in Action

**24** Independence of the Republic of Maldives

**29** The Teesta River Multipurpose Development Project:

**34** The July Declaration: A Historic Milestone and Beacon of Hope In Bangladesh's Democratic Journey

**41** Reasons Why the US Lifted Sanctions on Myanmar

**48** Strengthening Bangladesh–U.S. Trade Relations: Tariff Reductions and a Comprehensive Trade Agreement

# Editor's Note



The Editor  
Ambassador Magazine

August 2025 Edition – Ambassador Magazine

The month of July has left an indelible mark on Bangladesh's political and diplomatic landscape. What began as a series of student-led demonstrations swiftly escalated into a nationwide movement demanding accountability, reforms, and dignity in governance. Dubbed by many observers as the July Uprising, this wave of civic mobilization not only reflected the enduring strength of democratic spirit in Bangladesh, but also exposed the deep fractures that continue to challenge institutional resilience.

Alongside these domestic developments, the tone of diplomatic engagement between Bangladesh and the United States has noticeably hardened. A new phase of “tarring talk”—characterized by blunt exchanges, public statements, and strategic ambiguity—has replaced the traditional language of partnership.

While Washington raises concerns over governance and labor rights, Dhaka counters with assertions of sovereignty and the right to define its own development path. This evolving discourse reflects broader geopolitical shifts in the Indo-Pacific, where Bangladesh is increasingly seen as a strategic fulcrum in the contest for influence.

In this issue of Ambassador Magazine, we examine both the internal currents shaping Bangladesh's political trajectory and the external dynamics redefining its place on the global stage. Through in-depth analysis, firsthand accounts, and expert commentary, we hope to provide our readers with a deeper understanding of this pivotal moment.

As always, we remain committed to offering a platform for nuanced perspectives and informed dialogue in the service of diplomacy and democratic engagement.

# ONE YEAR OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT: REFORM, STABILITY, AND A NEW HORIZON OF HOPE

Imtiaz Ahmed



As August 2025 draws to a close, Bangladesh marks the completion of a full year under the stewardship of the Nobel Laureate Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus-led interim government. Sworn in on August 8, 2024—just days after the dramatic ouster of the authoritarian regime through a historic mass uprising—the interim administration has since navigated a nation in transition. In one of the most consequential chapters of Bangladesh's modern history, the government has ushered in a new era marked by democratic revival, institutional reform, economic stabilization, and renewed global confidence.

Over the past 12 months, the interim government has not only ensured continuity and calm during a politically sensitive time, but also planted the seeds of structural transformation across governance, economy, rule of law, civil liberties, and electoral preparedness.

**FROM UPRISING TO TRANSITION:  
A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL  
RESOLVE**



The origins of the current administration are rooted in the extraordinary events of July–August 2024, when tens of thousands of students and citizens flooded the streets in a peaceful but determined mass uprising. The movement, triggered by political repression and governance failure, culminated in the ouster of then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024.

In the immediate aftermath, Professor Muhammad Yunus was entrusted by a broad-based National Consensus Forum to lead an interim government that could restore order, safeguard fundamental rights, and prepare the country for free and fair elections. On August 8, 2024, the interim government formally took oath.

Recognizing the sacrifices of the July martyrs, the government declared August 5 as Mass Uprising Day, now observed nationwide to honor the people's struggle for democracy and justice.



## Laying the Groundwork for Elections: February 2026

A central pillar of the interim government's mandate has been to prepare the country for a transparent and inclusive general election. In a televised national address on August 5, 2025—marking one year since the uprising—Chief Adviser Dr Yunus confirmed that the next parliamentary elections will be held in February 2026, before the beginning of Ramadan.

The following day, the Chief Adviser's Office sent a formal directive to the Election Commission (EC) to initiate preparations. In response, the EC announced that the election schedule will be declared in the first half of December 2025. This clarity of timeline has been widely welcomed both domestically and internationally, and it marks a crucial achievement in reaffirming public confidence in the democratic process.



## Commissions for National Reform: Tackling Systemic Issues

One of the defining features of the interim administration has been its commitment to long-term institutional reform. Within the first six months, the government established nine independent reform commissions, each tasked with a critical sector of governance. These include:

- Electoral Reform Commission
- Police Reform Commission
- Judiciary Reform Commission
- Anti-Corruption Reform Commission
- Public Administration Reform Commission
- Health Reform Commission
- Mass Media Reform Commission
- Labour Rights Reform Commission
- Women's Affairs Reform Commission



July By 2025, each commission submitted comprehensive reports. Several key recommendations are already being implemented, including reforms in police recruitment and accountability, digital case management in courts, whistleblower protections, and decentralization of healthcare services. The cumulative impact of these efforts is a government architecture that is more transparent, citizen-oriented, and responsive to national needs.

## Economic Resilience Amid Adversity

Despite inheriting a fragile economic environment, the interim government has managed to stabilize key macroeconomic indicators through prudent fiscal policy, improved oversight, and strengthened external relationships. Major highlights include:

- Inflation dropped to 8.48% in June 2025, the lowest in nearly three years.

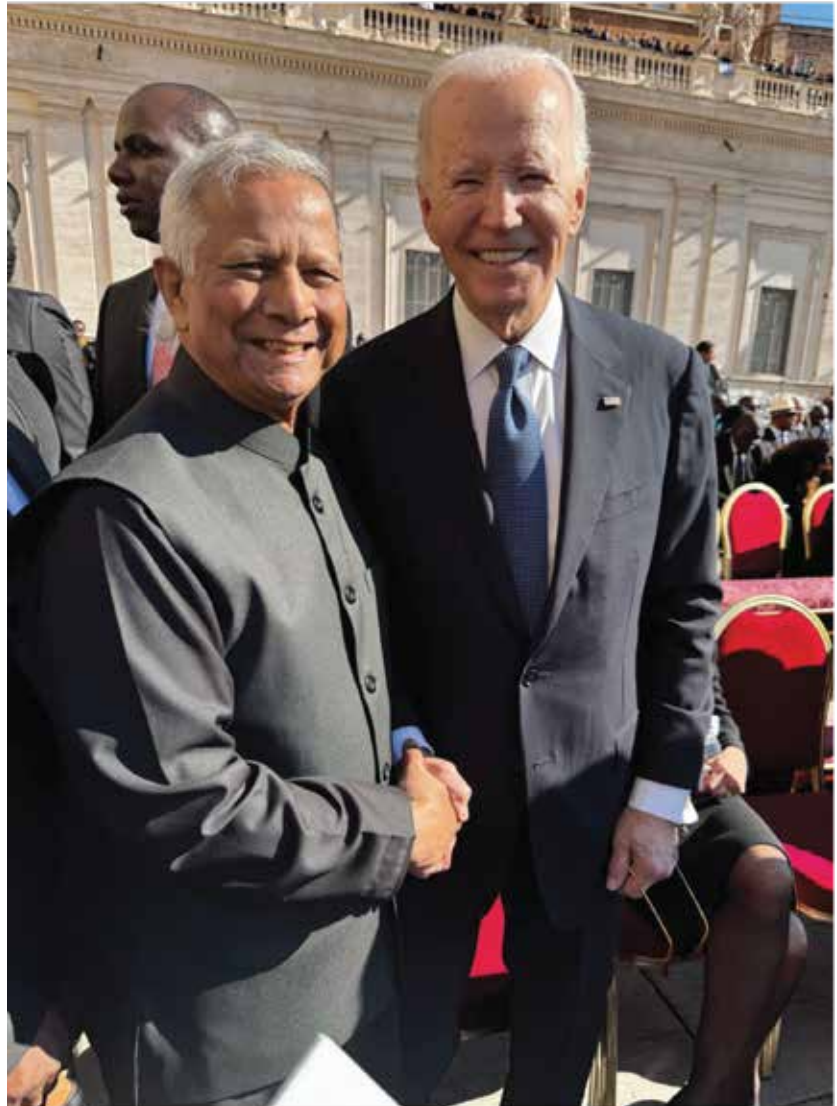
- Food inflation, once a major public concern, is projected to fall below 6% by December 2025, thanks to tighter market regulation and streamlined supply chains.

- Remittance hit a record \$30.33 billion in FY2024–25, reflecting enhanced confidence among overseas Bangladeshis in the current leadership.

- Export earnings grew by nearly 9%, driven by diversification into new markets and greater policy support for the garments and pharmaceuticals sectors.

- Foreign exchange reserves have stabilized, and the Taka has gained strength against the US dollar—a reversal of the depreciation trend under the previous government.

- The government has repaid \$4 billion in foreign loans over 11 months—an all-time high.



“Our priority was to restore market stability and shield vulnerable populations from the aftershocks of inflation and flood-related disruptions. We’ve achieved this through collaborative planning and trust-based governance.”

Additionally, social safety nets have been expanded to support flood victims and the rural poor, while public investment has been redirected toward infrastructure repair, agricultural resilience, and health system strengthening.

## RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

One of the stark contrasts between the current administration and its predecessor lies in the reestablishment of the rule of law. The interim government has empowered the Judiciary Reform Commission to overhaul case management, accelerate the resolution of political and criminal cases, and depoliticize judicial appointments.

Special tribunals have been established to investigate and prosecute the killings and human rights abuses committed during the July 2024 uprising. For the first time in years, victims are seeing progress toward justice.

Reforms in police accountability have also improved law enforcement's public perception, while reducing the impunity that had plagued security institutions under the previous regime.



## A FREE PRESS AND REJUVENATED CIVIC SPACE

Mass Media Reform Commission has made significant strides in transforming the media landscape of Bangladesh. Restrictions on press freedom have been lifted, and defamation laws have been revised to protect journalistic inquiry.

Since August 2024, media outlets have reported and investigated without fear of censorship or intimidation. Civil society organizations, student forums, and think tanks have reemerged as vital participants in the national conversation—once again shaping public policy through data, debate, and dialogue.

## THE JULY CHARTER: TOWARD A NEW NATIONAL COMPACT



As part of its commitment to inclusive governance, the interim government launched a National Consensus Dialogue involving all registered political parties, civil society leaders, and experts. The outcome is the forthcoming July Charter—a vision document that outlines the core values, goals, and responsibilities for a future democratic Bangladesh.

Key principles of the Charter include:

- Constitutional balance of power
- Electoral integrity and campaign finance transparency
- Protection of minorities and vulnerable groups
- Sustainable development and climate resilience
- Youth leadership and digital empowerment
- Zero tolerance for political violence and corruption

## CONCLUSION: A YEAR OF NATIONAL AWAKENING



As the first anniversary of the interim government passes, Bangladesh stands at the threshold of transformation. What began as a temporary solution has evolved into a profound national reset—one that prioritizes justice over power, transparency over partisanship, and progress over privilege.

The accomplishments of the past year are not without challenges, nor are they complete. But the path has been cleared. Institutions have been revived. Voices have been unshackled. The economy is recovering. And for the first time in a decade, the nation is preparing for a truly democratic election.

The legacy of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government will be judged by the stability it fostered, the hope it restored, and the future it enabled. In that regard, August 2025 does not just mark the end of a year—it marks the beginning of a new chapter in the story of Bangladesh.

**Imtiaz Ahmed**  
*Senior Journalist*  
The business Standard

## **ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT SHAHABUDDIN IN DHAKA, REAFFIRMING ENDURING BILATERAL TIES**

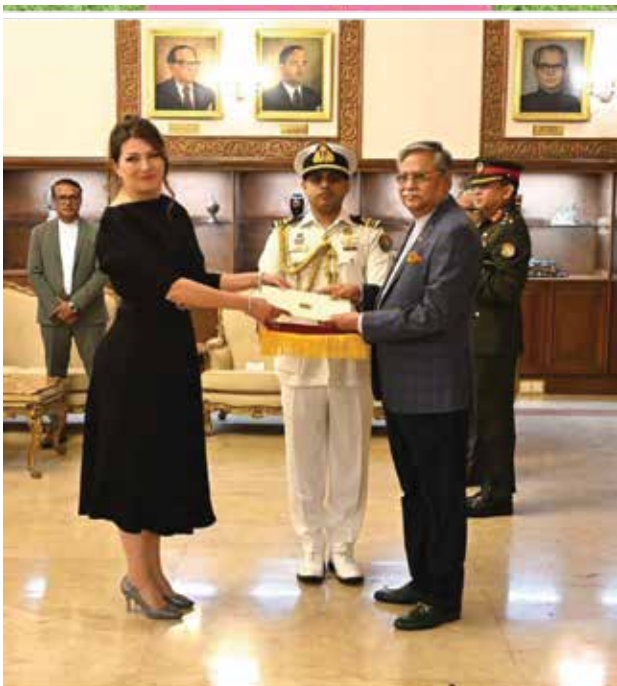
The Honorable President of Bangladesh, Mohammed Shahabuddin, hosted a distinguished official ceremony today in Dhaka to receive the Letters of Credence from the newly appointed Ambassador of Romania, on behalf of President Nicușor Dan.

In a solemn ceremony marked by high diplomatic and military protocol, the Romanian Ambassador formally assumed his duties in Bangladesh, expressing deep appreciation for the warm welcome and fruitful discussions held with President Shahabuddin, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and fellow diplomats.

During the meeting, President Shahabuddin fondly recalled that Romania was among the first countries to recognize Bangladesh's independence in 1971 — a gesture that laid the foundation for decades of steadfast friendship. He expressed satisfaction with the long-standing bilateral relations and mutual cooperation.



The Romanian envoy reiterated his country's commitment to advancing this partnership further, pledging to work closely with the Government and people of Bangladesh to explore new areas of collaboration in trade, education, culture, and regional diplomacy. The ceremony underscored the shared values and vision of both nations and the intention to build on their historic ties with renewed diplomatic energy.



## BANGLADESH WELCOMES CEASEFIRE BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA, APPLAUDS ASEAN MEDIATION

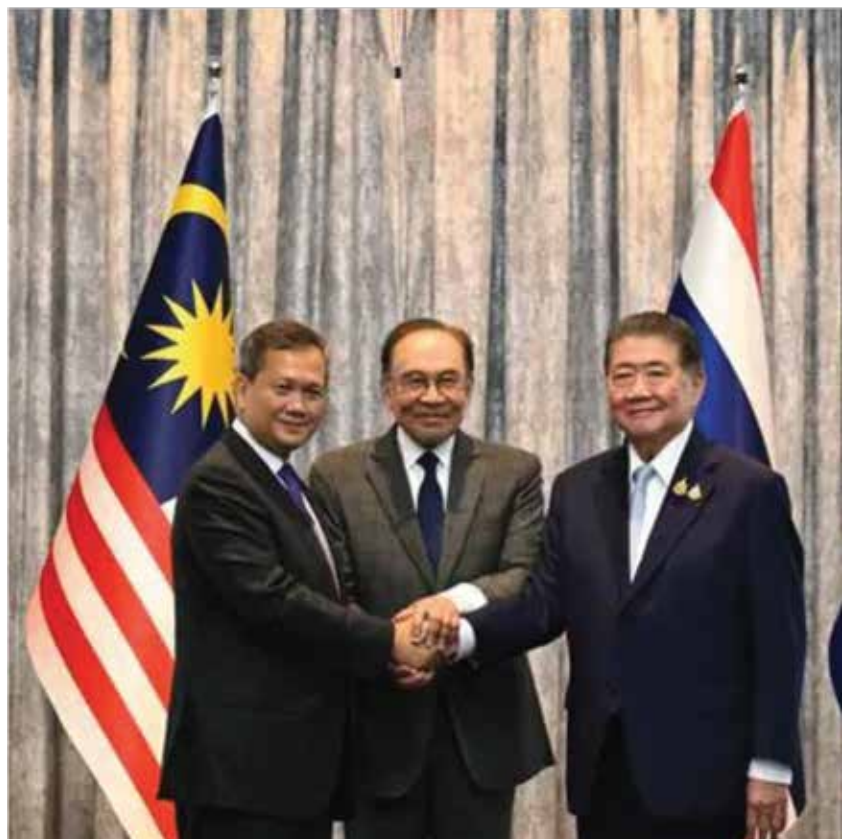
Bangladesh has warmly welcomed the announcement of an immediate and unconditional ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia, declared yesterday, 28 July 2025.

In an official statement, the Government of Bangladesh expressed appreciation for the successful mediation efforts led by Malaysia, the current Chair of ASEAN, which facilitated high-level political dialogue between the two sides.

Bangladesh also extended its commendation to other friendly nations who contributed to the peaceful resolution, recognizing their role in promoting regional stability.



Calling for sustained efforts toward a permanent settlement, Bangladesh encouraged both Thailand and Cambodia to resolve all outstanding border demarcation issues through continued dialogue and diplomacy. It further urged an early restoration of calm and stability in the affected border regions, highlighting the urgent need to protect the lives and livelihoods of people residing along both sides of the frontier.





# FROM LABOR EXPORT TO SKILLED WORKFORCE: BANGLADESH'S GLOBAL EXPANSION STRATEGY

Dr Arifur Rahman

## Introduction: Rethinking the Labor Narrative

For over four decades, Bangladesh has stood as one of the world's leading labor-exporting nations, with millions of workers contributing to the economies of the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and beyond. These overseas workers have formed the backbone of Bangladesh's foreign exchange earnings, sending home over USD 21 billion in remittances in FY 2023–24. But behind these numbers lies a deeper truth: a large portion of these migrant workers have historically been employed in low-skill or semi-skilled roles, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, limited upward mobility, and stagnant wage growth.

In response, the Government of Bangladesh has embarked on an ambitious new journey—transitioning from a



## Building a Skilled Workforce: From Training to Certification

volume-based labor export model to a value-based, skill-driven workforce export strategy. This transformative policy not only targets better wages and working conditions for Bangladeshi workers but also seeks to leverage human capital as a diplomatic and economic asset for the country in the 21st century.

The shift begins at home—with training, upskilling, and internationally recognized certifications. Agencies such as the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB), and the Ministry of Expatriates'

Welfare and Overseas Employment have partnered with both domestic and international stakeholders to develop a national workforce that meets global demand.

One of the most promising developments has been the inclusion of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) in this nationwide effort.

Traditionally known for community security and resilience, the Ansar & VDP now offers technical and vocational training in areas such as 6G welding, industrial safety, security services, caregiving, agriculture technology, and construction management. These programs are especially impactful in rural and semi-urban areas, where employment opportunities remain limited.

Additionally, BMET training centers across the country have expanded their curricula to include:

[Geriatric and palliative caregiving \(for Japan, Italy, and Germany\)](#)

[Hospitality and housekeeping services \(for the Gulf and ASEAN countries\)](#)

[Smart agriculture and farm management \(for East Asia and Australia\)](#)

[Technical trades and construction engineering \(for the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia\)](#)

What sets these initiatives apart is the alignment with international accreditation standards, including NVQF, ISO-compliant modules, and language proficiency training tailored to specific labor destinations.



## “From Bilateral Agreements to Strategic Labor Diplomacy”

Bangladesh has taken a proactive role in signing bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that not only ensure labor supply but also secure the rights and recognition of Bangladeshi workers in host countries.

### Notable recent MoUs include:

Japan: under the “Specified Skilled Workers” (SSW) scheme for caregiving, hotel services, and agriculture

Saudi Arabia and UAE: expanded agreements for certified tradespeople with improved wage packages

South Korea: Employment Permit System (EPS) for factory workers and agricultural technicians

Romania, Poland, and Italy: new pathways for construction, industrial services, and elder care

These MoUs mark a shift from labor-sup-

ply dependency to cooperative workforce planning, in which both the sending and receiving countries benefit from a regulated and quality labor exchange. Such agreements often include clauses on:

- Legal protection and arbitration
- Health and social security inclusion
- Gender-sensitive recruitment practices
- Re-skilling and reintegration upon return

### Embassies as Hubs of Labor Diplomacy.

Bangladeshi embassies are playing an increasingly vital role in labor diplomacy—bridging policy with practice. These missions are tasked with:

Identifying sector-specific labor shortages in host countries

Facilitating work visa procedures and employer matching

Organizing skills showcases, expos, and cultural outreach

Protecting workers’ rights and providing legal support.

In countries like Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Japan, embassies have launched Labor Wings or expanded their Welfare and Employment Desks to ensure

real-time coordination between recruiters, employers, and government agencies.

The embassies are also helping identify trends in global employment, allowing Bangladesh to adapt its training priorities accordingly.

In addition, consular posts are now active in branding the Bangladeshi worker—emphasizing discipline, reliability, and cultural adaptability as key attributes in marketing the country’s human capital globally.





# Soft Power and Economic Diplomacy: A New Frontier

The export of skilled workers has far-reaching diplomatic implications. As Bangladesh expands its global presence through highly trained professionals, it fosters positive perceptions and trust among host nations. A Bangladeshi nurse in Rome, an agriculture technician in Seoul, or a hospitality manager in Abu Dhabi not only sends remittance but also becomes a soft power ambassador, building bridges of cultural understanding and economic cooperation.

## Furthermore, the skilled diaspora plays a crucial role in:

- Attracting foreign investment by showcasing local talent
- Promoting Bangladeshi products and services abroad
- Facilitating technology and knowledge transfer
- Establishing trade and educational partnerships

This model of skilled labor diplomacy is helping reframe Bangladesh's international narrative—from a passive labor exporter to an active global partner in development and productivity.

## Challenges and Way Forward

While the momentum is promising, challenges remain. These include:

- Ensuring the quality and consistency of training nationwide
- Tackling illegal recruitment practices and broker syndicates
- Expanding female participation in the skilled labor force

Aligning skill development with real-time labor market data

Strengthening public-private partnerships in workforce planning

The upcoming National Skill Development Policy and digital labor databases are expected to further streamline coordination across ministries, training institutes, and overseas missions. The government is also encouraging the private sector, NGOs, and development partners to co-invest in skill labs, assessment centers, and digital learning platforms.

## CONCLUSION: A Nation Rising on Its Human Capital

Bangladesh's transition from exporting labor to deploying globally competitive, certified professionals marks a turning point in its journey toward becoming a knowledge- and skill-based economy.

With coordinated efforts among training institutes, embassies, and strategic partners, the country is setting a precedent in South Asia for how smart labor diplomacy can reshape both domestic development and foreign relations

In the years ahead, as skilled Bangladeshis lead projects, care for elderly populations, and build smart cities abroad, they will also build something far more profound: a renewed image of Bangladesh—modern, capable, and indispensable in the global workforce of the future.

**Dr Arifur Rahman**  
Editor  
The Ambassador Magazine



## AMBASSADOR YAO WEN MEETS HEALTH ADVISER NURJAHAN BEGUM, REAFFIRMS CHINA–BANGLADESH HEALTH COOPERATION



Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Yao Wen met with Ms. Nurjahan Begum, Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, to discuss and strengthen ongoing health sector collaboration between the two nations.

The high-level meeting, held on July 30, was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Finance.

Ambassador Yao Wen highlighted the broad scope of practical cooperation between China and Bangladesh in recent years, including emergency medical support, hospital construction, medical aid supplies, and technical exchanges. He emphasized that these initiatives, guided by the strategic leadership of both countries' top leaders, have significantly advanced the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between China and Bangladesh..

Ambassador Yao reaffirmed China's continued commitment to supporting Bangladesh's healthcare development and pledged to bring further benefits to both nations through sustained collaboration.

In response, Adviser Nurjahan Begum expressed deep gratitude for China's long-standing assistance, especially the rapid deployment of a Chinese medical team of burn experts following the recent jet crash incident in Bangladesh. She noted the gesture as a powerful reflection of the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries and voiced optimism that bilateral health cooperation would reach even greater heights in the coming years.



## AMBASSADOR SAIDA SHINICHI ATTENDS SEMINAR ON BANGLADESH–JAPAN SHIP RECYCLING COLLABORATION

Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, H.E. SAIDA Shinichi, participated in the “Seminar on the Ship Recycling Industry in Bangladesh in Collaboration with Japan,” held in Dhaka on July 28. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Industries of Bangladesh and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as part of the JICA Ship Recycling Project.

The seminar came on the heels of the official entry into force of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) on June 26, 2025. Ambassador SAIDA delivered remarks underlining Japan’s strong commitment to supporting Bangladesh’s efforts to transition toward a safer, greener, and more sustainable ship recycling industry in line with HKC standards.

Key Bangladeshi government officials, including Mr. Obaidur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Industries, reiterated the country’s resolve to fully implement the HKC and improve global environmental and safety benchmarks.

From the Japanese side, representatives from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), the Japanese Shipowners’ Association (JSA), ClassNK, and major ship companies attended and contributed technical expertise and global perspectives...



The seminar underscored Japan’s enduring partnership with Bangladesh in capacity building, regulatory advancement, and the development of a globally recognized model for environmentally responsible ship recycling.

# BANGLADESH'S UN PEACEKEEPING LEADERSHIP: SOFT POWER IN ACTION

Sakhwat Khan



## INTRODUCTION – A PEACEFUL FORCE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Since its first deployment in the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in 1988, Bangladesh has consistently strengthened its commitment to global peace. To date, over 194,856 Bangladeshi personnel have served across 63 UN missions in 43 countries, making Bangladesh one of the top three troop-contributing countries.

As of mid-2025, 6,092 Bangladeshi peacekeepers are actively deployed in 13 UN missions, including in DR Congo, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Abyei, Mali and Lebanon among others. Their contributions go beyond patrolling—they build schools, bridges, clinics, and facilitate reconciliation in communities torn by conflict.

**"With unwavering dedication and global reach, Bangladesh exemplifies leadership in UN peacekeeping — a true force for peace and reconstruction."**



## Women in Peacekeeping – Leading by Example

### Bangladesh has become a leader in gender inclusive peace operations:

3,038 Bangladeshi women have served in UN missions to date, with 493 currently deployed.

The Armed Forces Division reports that 1,718 women have participated, with 373 currently deployed across different services: Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Bangladesh is nearing or exceeding UN targets, with female Staff Officers and Military Observers nearly achieving the 18% benchmark set for 2025.

One of the most symbolic contributions was Bangladesh's deployment of the first all-female peacekeeping unit under MINUSTAH in Haiti (2015), which earned international acclaim. Bangladesh also deployed female helicopter pilots in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—an operational milestone for gender inclusion.

### Command and Leadership in Conflict Zones

Bangladesh's leadership extends beyond numbers to strategic command roles:

**Bangladeshi officers currently hold senior positions—such as peacekeeping force commanders, police commissioners, and deputy commanders—in sensitive missions including \*UNMISS (South Sudan), UNIFIL (Lebanon), MINUSCA (CAR), and MONUSCO (DR Congo)**

168 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and 266 have been injured in service, a reflection of the hazardous and challenging environments in which they operate.

During International Day of UN Peacekeepers (May 2025), Army Chief General WakerUz Zaman, and Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed reiterated that Bangladesh stands “among the most effective, efficient, and most respected” contributing nations.

# Training Excellence – BIPSOT as a Global Model

At the heart of Bangladesh's operational strength lies BIPSOT (Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training) located in Gazipur: BIPSOT is a UN-certified centre of excellence, established in 1999, and now led by Major General Hussain Muhammad Masihur Rahman.

Its curriculum includes: mission tactics, international humanitarian law, crisis negotiation, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, and multi-lingual cultural orientation. The institute consistently supports pre-deployment training both for Bangladesh and other troop-contributing nations under UN frameworks. Soft Power in Action – Peacekeeping as Diplomacy Bangladesh's peacekeeping endeavors have augmented its soft power and global standing: Peacekeepers function as informal ambassadors, showing discipline, integrity, and empathy—enhancing Bangladesh's moral influence in international forums.



## Challenges and Future Outlook

### Despite strong performance, Bangladesh continues to address key areas:

Sustaining female representation beyond baseline targets, and expanding their operational roles. Managing equipping and safety needs of peacekeepers in increasingly volatile missions, including protective technologies such as AI-enabled camp surveillance systems and renewable energy deployment in field bases, announced at the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin (May 2025). Enhancing public-private training partnerships, and integrating digital tools for better logistical and medical support.

### Conclusion – The Blue Helmet, the Red-Green Flag

Today, Bangladesh is not only among the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping, but also among the most respected in terms of professionalism, gender inclusion, and leadership capacity. Each deployed soldier, police officer, or pilot carries the blue helmet of the UN and the red-green flag of Bangladesh, symbolizing a powerful fusion of global service and national pride.

As conflicts evolve and global challenges intensify, Bangladesh's peacekeepers continue to embody the nation's founding motto—serving not with force, but with compassion, cooperation, and credibility.

**Sakhwat Khan**  
*Ex UN High Official*

**U.S. AND BANGLADESH CONCLUDE TIGER LIGHTNING 2025, REINFORCING MILITARY PARTNERSHIP AND REGIONAL READINESSV**

U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Ambassador Tracey Jacobson joined senior officials from the Bangladesh Army to mark the successful conclusion of Tiger Lightning 2025, a joint military exercise aimed at strengthening the growing defense partnership between the United States and Bangladesh.

The exercise, which featured combined tactical and strategic training, underscored both nations’ commitment to enhancing emergency readiness, interoperability, and regional stability.



Speaking at the closing ceremony, Ambassador Jacobson praised the professionalism and cooperation displayed by both forces, noting that Tiger Lightning not only prepares troops for crisis response but also reaffirms shared values in peacekeeping and humanitarian support.



## AUSTRALIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER BEN CARSON VISITS CHATTOGRAM TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

In a significant move to deepen trade and investment ties with Bangladesh, Australian Trade and Investment Commissioner Ben Carson, along with his Austrade team, visited Chattogram last week.

The delegation engaged with key sectors driving Bangladesh's industrial and agricultural growth, including leaders in food processing, pulses and grains production, and the circular economy. Notable visits included Green Factory-awarded steel manufacturer BSRM and recycling conglomerate PHP Family, both pioneers in sustainable industrial practices.



The team also connected with distributors of Australian agricultural products and toured Banga Flavour & Fragrance, where Australian firm The Product Makers (TPM) is spearheading food innovation using premium Australian ingredients.

The visit concluded with a solemn moment of reflection at the Chittagong Commonwealth War Cemetery, where nine Australian servicemen are laid to rest—a poignant reminder of the historical ties and shared sacrifices that underpin the enduring Australia–Bangladesh relationship.



Commissioner Carson reaffirmed Australia's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's growth journey and expanding mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

# INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



Md Rashidul Hasan Chowdhury

High Commission of Maldives Hosts a Reception in Dhaka to Mark 60th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Maldives

News-EN 30 July 2025

Ref: 2025/PR/7

# INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



The High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Bangladesh hosted a reception at Sheraton Dhaka on 28 July 2025 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Maldives. The event brought together a distinguished gathering of dignitaries, diplomats, government officials, travel and tour operators and members of the Maldivian community residing in Dhaka..

His Excellency Dr. Asif Nazrul, Honourable Adviser to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest.



The formal proceedings commenced with a solemn minute of silence in memory of the victims of the recent tragic plane crash at Milestone School and College in Uttara, symbolising the shared grief and solidarity between the two nations. This was followed by the national anthems of the Maldives and Bangladesh.

In her address, Her Excellency Shiuneen Rasheed, High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to Bangladesh, reflected on the significance of the 60th Independence Day as a moment of national pride and resilience. She paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Maldivian people in their pursuit of self-determination and highlighted the Maldives' unwavering commitment to peace, democracy, and sustainable development. The High Commissioner also underlined the longstanding friendship between the Maldives and Bangladesh, reaffirming the Maldives' appreciation for Bangladesh's continued support in regional and bilateral spheres.



A special highlight of the evening was the launch of a collaborative commemorative song featuring artists from both the Maldives and Bangladesh, symbolising cultural harmony and shared aspirations.

**The Chief Guest, His Excellency Dr. Asif Nazrul, extended warm congratulations to the people and government of the Maldives on the auspicious occasion. In his remarks, he acknowledged the enduring bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and expressed hope for further strengthening of bilateral ties in the years to come.**

**Md Rashidul Hasan Chowdhury**  
*Assistant Editor*  
The Ambassador Magazine

## GILDAN STRENGTHENS BANGLADESH OPERATIONS AS CANADA CHAMPIONS INCLUSIVE INDO-PACIFIC TRADE



In a powerful display of sustainable trade and investment, Gildan, Canada's largest investor in Bangladesh, is deepening its role in the Indo-Pacific region by fostering inclusive economic growth and job creation.

Since entering Bangladesh in 2010, Gildan has grown significantly—now operating three advanced factories and a major distribution hub, employing over 9,000 local workers. Its Dhaka office has become a strategic node in Gildan's global supply chain, linking Bangladesh directly to Canada and other international markets.

During a recent visit, Canada's Assistant Deputy Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Mr. Weldon Epp, toured Gildan's facilities to assess ongoing investments and explore new opportunities for Canadian firms to support quality employment in both countries.

ADM Epp emphasized that Canada remains committed to advancing sustainable, responsible, and inclusive trade partnerships in the Indo-Pacific. Gildan's continued expansion reflects this vision, as the company aligns commercial growth with community development and environmental responsibility.

The visit underscores Canada's goal of fostering trade that not only drives business but also builds resilient communities across borders.



# THE TEESTA RIVER MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

**A Transformative Step for Bangladesh's Economic Growth, Climate Resilience, and Regional Empowerment**

Md. Hasinur Rahman

The Government of Bangladesh has taken a bold and visionary step by initiating a comprehensive ecosystem-based multipurpose development project centered on the Teesta River. This project, if implemented with precision and foresight, has the potential to revolutionize river management in Bangladesh while simultaneously unlocking vast opportunities in agriculture, energy, industry, transportation, urban development, and climate resilience. It also provides a promising investment platform for both domestic and expatriate Bangladeshis.



Teesta is not just a river—it is a lifeline for millions in northern Bangladesh. For decades, this river has been the center of geopolitical negotiations, seasonal floods, and the declining livelihoods of communities living along its banks. The newly proposed Teesta project aims to reverse that narrative by adopting a holistic approach rooted in river ecology, equitable water sharing, and inclusive economic development.

## ALIGNING WITH INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE: A STRATEGIC NECESSITY

One of the most critical components of this initiative is Bangladesh's call for water-sharing justice under international water laws. As a downstream country, Bangladesh has long suffered from seasonal water scarcity in the Teesta basin due to upstream diversions. In this context, Bangladesh must take strong diplomatic and legal steps to assert its rights under the UN Watercourses Convention of 1997 and the 1992 Water Convention.



## CORE OBJECTIVES AND MULTI-SECTORAL BENEFITS OF THE TEESTA PROJECT

The Teesta Multipurpose Project is not just a river management initiative—it is a national transformation blueprint. Below are the core components and their strategic significance:

### 1. Scientific Research on Riverbank Erosion

Understanding the root causes of erosion is a top priority. Without proper analysis, interventions may backfire. Areas like Dowabari, Dewabari, Charsindurna, Votemari, Kalkanda, and Khuniyagach face severe threats due to river migration. Thousands of people living on river islands (chars) depend on these lands for survival. Therefore, erosion-mitigation plans must be guided by comprehensive research.

### 2. Dredging the Teesta River for Navigability and Water Holding

From the Dalia point to the Brahmaputra confluence, the Teesta will be dredged to increase depth and flow retention. Upstream dredging may also be undertaken to manage seasonal flooding and water stagnation. Dredged silt and sand will be analyzed for mineral content and reused in infrastructure and geotechnical applications, such as riverbank protection, geobag filling, and industrial land reclamation.

### 3. Riverbank Embankments and Tributary Revitalization

Building strong embankments along the Teesta's banks will protect surrounding communities from floods and erosion. However, the project must also reconnect key tributaries like Buriteesta, Ghaghot, Burial, Mans, Jamirjan, Saniyanjan, Bhoteshwari, and Sati rivers. These water channels play a vital role in distributing excess floodwaters, preventing severe damage in localized areas..

### 4. Land Reclamation for EPZs, Agro-Industries, and Solar Parks

Dredged lands will be used for developing industrial zones, agro-processing units, and solar farms, creating large-scale employment. Export Processing Zones (EPZs) near the river will attract local and foreign investment, while solar power generation will provide clean energy to industries and rural communities.

### 5. Solar Power and Renewable Energy Installations

By harnessing Teesta's open floodplains and reclaimed land, large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) plants can be developed to meet the region's electricity demand. These power stations will ensure low-cost, green electricity for both agricultural pumps and small industries, promoting energy access and climate adaptation.

### 6. Benarasi Craft Clusters and Garment Industries

With flood control and better connectivity (notably through Syedpur Airport), textile and garment hubs, including Benarasi sari weaving clusters, can flourish in the Teesta region. These traditional crafts, if institutionalized and scaled, can lead to rural employment growth, cultural heritage promotion, and increased export earnings.

### 7. Development of Smart, Planned Digital Townships

Reclaimed land from dredging will enable the establishment of planned digital towns equipped with modern infrastructure. These urban nodes can attract public-private partnerships (PPP) and help in real estate development with long-term sustainability. Land plots can be sold to investors, and profits reinvested into social development initiatives.

### 8. Excavation of Tributaries and Canals for Flood Mitigation

Simultaneous dredging of Teesta's tributaries will enhance water retention capacity and interconnectedness across the basin. This interconnected water system will spread floodwaters evenly, minimizing damages in flood-prone hotspots and protecting biodiversity and food security.

### 9. Optimizing Irrigation Potential

Sustained water availability through this project will ensure stable and scalable irrigation systems, particularly in char lands and dry belts of northern Bangladesh. This will support commercial farming, food production, and agri-based livelihoods.

## KEY PRIORITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

For the Teesta Project to be a national success story, the following strategic priorities must be respected:

»Ecological Integrity: All interventions must preserve the natural ecosystem and avoid long-term environmental degradation.

»Expert-Led Execution: Collaboration with international and local hydrologists, engineers, ecologists, and economists is essential.

»Local Economic Integration: Community ownership and job creation must be at the heart of the project.

»Youth Employment: Vocational training and entrepreneurship programs should be integrated into the project design.

»Empowerment of Marginalized Communities: Special attention should be given to char dwellers and indigenous populations.

# TEESTA

## DOMESTIC INVESTMENT AND DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT: A NEW MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT

What makes the Teesta Project especially unique is its potential for grassroots investment and national ownership. The government is planning to issue “Teesta Bonds” to raise funds domestically. However, beyond state financing, Bangladeshi citizens and diaspora members must be given the opportunity to invest directly in this transformative endeavor.

With Syedpur Airport poised to become an international hub and the proposed Lalmonirhat Airport adding to connectivity, diaspora interest in investing in northern Bangladesh will significantly increase. By participating in a nationally vital project, overseas Bangladeshis can contribute not just capital but also technology, innovation, and global best practices.

## CONCLUSION: A RIVER OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The Teesta Ecosystem-Based Multipurpose Project is more than an infrastructure initiative—it is a blueprint for Bangladesh’s sustainable future. It combines climate resilience, economic opportunity, energy transition, and social inclusion. If properly executed, it will:

- Improve livelihoods of millions in the Teesta basin
- Strengthen Bangladesh’s claim over transboundary river rights
- Build domestic capacity in river engineering and water diplomacy
- Showcase a new development model based on self-reliance, ecosystem restoration, and inclusive growth

The time to act is now. Let Teesta not remain a symbol of political deadlock or natural disaster, but emerge as Bangladesh’s river of hope, progress, and prosperity.



**Md. Hasinur Rahman**  
Additional Deputy Director,  
Pesticide Administration, Plant Protection

## INDIAN MEDICAL TEAM DEPARTS AFTER FULFILLING HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN BANGLADESH FOLLOWING DHAKA AIR CRASH

An Indian medical team comprising top specialists from Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi returned to India this evening after successfully completing their emergency medical mission in Bangladesh. The four-member team arrived in Dhaka on 23 July 2025, following a commitment made by Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to provide assistance in the aftermath of the devastating air crash at Milestone School and College on 21 July..





During their stay, the team collaborated closely with Bangladeshi doctors at the National Institute of Burn & Plastic Surgery (NIBPS), offering specialized medical advice and expertise to treat the victims of the tragedy. The visiting doctors expressed their appreciation for the quality of care and treatment protocols being administered at NIBPS, and shared expert guidance on managing critical burn cases.

India has reiterated its readiness to provide continued support, including access to advanced medical treatment in India, should it be required for the recovery and rehabilitation of the injured.

The visit of the Indian medical team underscores the deep people-to-people ties and enduring spirit of solidarity between India and Bangladesh, especially during times of national tragedy.







# The July Declaration

# THE JULY DECLARATION: A HISTORIC MILESTONE AND BEACON OF HOPE IN BANGLADESH'S DEMOCRATIC JOURNEY

On the afternoon of August 5, 2025, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor to the Government of Bangladesh, publicly read the July Declaration at Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka. This momentous occasion marks not only a recognition of Bangladesh's resilient democratic spirit but also the beginning of a hopeful new chapter that promises social justice, national unity, and inclusive progress for all citizens..



Honoring Bangladesh's Proud Legacy of Struggle and Triumph.

The July Declaration pays profound homage to Bangladesh's heroic journey—from the oppressive years under colonial and military rule to the triumphant birth of an independent nation in 1971. It celebrates the extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and unwavering determination of millions who dreamt of a free, equal, and just society. This legacy remains the moral compass guiding Bangladesh's continued quest for democracy and development.

## **A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND GOVERNANCE**

The Declaration reaffirms Bangladesh's foundational principles of equality, human dignity, and social justice, deeply enshrined in the 1972 Constitution. It recognizes that despite past challenges, the nation's democratic aspirations remain vibrant and strong. The transition to an inclusive and accountable government under Dr. Yunus' interim administration demonstrates the collective will of the people to uphold democratic values and strengthen institutions.

## **STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND PROTECTING FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

The July Declaration boldly calls for revitalizing Bangladesh's democratic institutions to ensure transparency, rule of law, and human rights protection. By denouncing authoritarian excesses and corruption, it sets the stage for rebuilding trust between the government and citizens. The commitment to free, fair, and inclusive elections underscores the nation's dedication to representative governance where every voice counts. Importantly, the Declaration encourages a vibrant civil society, freedom of speech, and independent judiciary as pillars for sustainable democracy. The peaceful and determined public support for this transition showcases Bangladesh's maturity as a democracy that values dialogue, participation, and fairness.



### **VISION FOR A JUST, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE BANGLADESH**

to the future, the July Declaration paints a hopeful vision of Bangladesh as a nation that not only champions democracy but also embraces social justice, environmental sustainability, and inclusivity. It prioritizes policies that address inequality, protect minority rights, and combat climate change—recognizing that a resilient society is one that cares for all its members and preserves its natural heritage. The Declaration's call to enshrine these values constitutionally reflects the ambition to create a Bangladesh that can serve as a model for progressive governance and sustainable development in the region.

### **CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF POPULAR RESISTANCE AND NATIONAL UNITY**

The mass uprising of August 5, 2024, is commemorated as a historic and inspiring manifestation of the people's will. The bravery of students, workers, women, and ordinary citizens who stood up against oppression reflects the deep-rooted democratic values within Bangladeshi society. The recognition of these heroes fosters a shared sense of pride and unity that transcends divisions and strengthens national solidarity. Furthermore, the support shown by members of the armed forces who aligned themselves with democratic aspirations symbolizes hope for harmony between civilian governance and security institutions.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL STANDING**

The democratic renewal heralded by the July Declaration opens doors for enhanced economic growth, social cohesion, and international cooperation. A transparent and accountable government attracts investment, fosters innovation, and ensures equitable access to resources. Bangladesh's young and dynamic population, empowered through education and civic engagement, stands poised to lead the nation toward prosperity.

On the global stage, a democratic and stable Bangladesh enhances its reputation as a reliable partner in regional peace, trade, and climate action—strengthening ties with neighbors and allies alike.

## **CONCLUSION: A NEW DAWN FULL OF PROMISE AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY**



The July Declaration is more than a document—it is a beacon of hope illuminating Bangladesh's path forward. It embodies the people's resilient spirit, their commitment to justice, and their dreams for a prosperous, democratic future.

Its success depends on the active participation of all citizens, political leaders, civil society, and institutions to nurture the democratic gains and uphold fundamental freedoms. Together, united by shared values and common purpose, Bangladesh is poised to turn this declaration into transformative reality.

If fully embraced and implemented, the July Declaration will mark a historic new dawn—one defined by peace, progress, and an unwavering dedication to democracy, human rights, and social equity for generations to come..

## EU REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BANGLADESH ON WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



On the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh reiterated its steadfast commitment to fighting human trafficking through a victim-centred, rights-based, and prevention-first approach.

At a national observance event held in Dhaka today, Dr. Bernd Spanier, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation, emphasized the urgency of collective action, stating:

“Human trafficking is one of the most severe violations of human rights in our time. It is a global crime that robs people of freedom, dignity, and hope.”

Since 2017, the EU-funded Prottasha project, jointly implemented by IOM and BRAC, has supported over 5,386 returnees, helping them reintegrate with dignity while promoting safe and informed migration pathways.





In close partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, UNODC, and civil society, the EU is also working to:

- Enhance cross-border law enforcement cooperation in South Asia
- Promote safe and legal labour migration through the EU Talent Partnership Program
- Disrupt traffickers' business models under the EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy

Dr. Spanier stressed that trafficking does not stop at borders — and neither should the global response. The European Union called for unified efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, reaffirming its long-standing support for Bangladesh in the fight against trafficking and exploitation.

## ALGERIAN PRESIDENT EXPRESSES DEEP CONDOLENCES OVER TRAGIC PLANE CRASH IN BANGLADESH

Algiers, 28 July 2025 — The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria has expressed deep sorrow and solidarity following the tragic crash of a military aircraft into a school in Bangladesh, which resulted in numerous casualties and injuries.

His Excellency Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the Republic of Algeria, conveyed his heartfelt condolences to His Excellency Mohammed Shahabuddin, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the Government of Bangladesh.

In his message of condolence, President Tebboune expressed profound sympathy to the bereaved families, wished a swift recovery to the injured, and reaffirmed Algeria's strong commitment to standing beside Bangladesh during this time of national mourning.

He further noted that the friendly relations between Algeria and Bangladesh remain strong and enduring, and assured the people of Bangladesh of his prayers and solidarity in this heartbreaking moment.



## 25 CHILDREN AMONG 27 KILLED IN BANGLADESH JET CRASH



TRAGEDY

# REASONS WHY THE US LIFTED SANCTIONS ON MYANMAR

Syed Raiyan Amir



It slipped in quietly. No grand announcement, no televised press conference. Just a routine notice from the US Treasury: several Myanmar-linked individuals—business elites connected to the military junta—have been removed from the sanctions list. That's it. No real explanation. For anyone who's been following US policy since Myanmar's 2021 coup, this looked off. Human rights groups were quick to call it "shocking" and "deeply troubling." And fair enough—on the surface, it seems like the US just eased up on a regime responsible for mass violence and democratic backsliding. But here's the thing: this move has very little to do with Myanmar's domestic politics. It's not about democracy or human rights. It's about other geostrategic and geopolitical actors like China. It's about rare earths. It's about geography. And it's about time.

"Geostrategic  
Realignment"

Let's back up a bit. The sanctions weren't lifted in a vacuum. Two weeks earlier, Myanmar's top general, Min Aung Hlaing, sent a letter to US President Donald Trump. In it, he praised Trump's leadership, floated tariff reductions, and, importantly, asked for sanctions relief. The wording was deliberately flattering, almost performative. But also pragmatic. Myanmar wants access to US markets. It needs economic oxygen. And it knows how to talk to a White House that thinks in deals. Shortly after, the US Treasury removed several junta-linked names: businesspeople operating in defence logistics, tech, and supply chains. Some had only been sanctioned recently. Again, no formal reason was offered. But nothing in geopolitics happens in a vacuum..

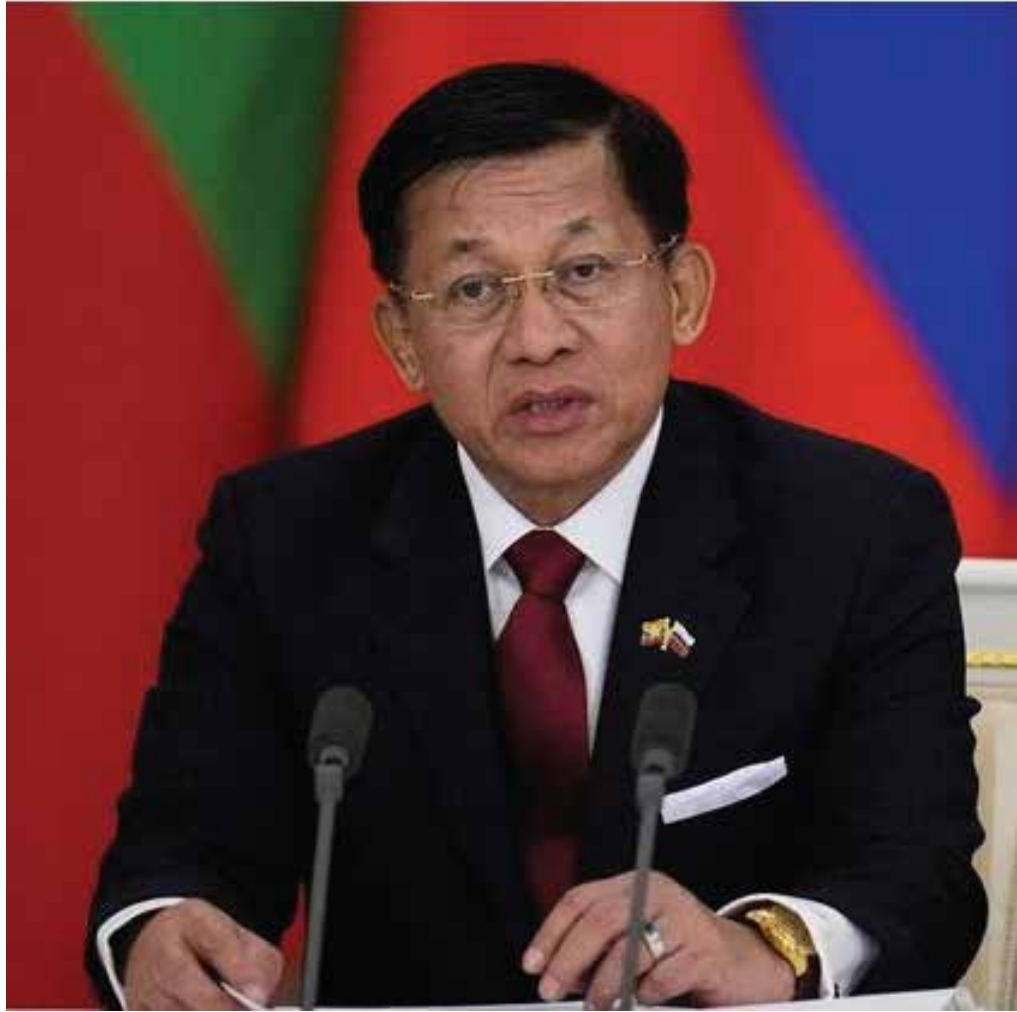


Myanmar's value to the US isn't rooted in ideology. It's logistics, minerals, and map lines. Look at where it sits, wedged between Bangladesh, India, China, and the Bay of Bengal. It's a perfect fulcrum point in what's become the most contested strategic region today: the Indo-Pacific. From the US perspective, this isn't just about what Myanmar is. It's about what China is doing inside Myanmar. And the picture isn't simple. Beijing has, for years, been investing in infrastructure, buying access, and forging relationships with both the military and insurgent ethnic groups in Myanmar. This includes groups that control key territories filled with rare earth minerals. That part is important. Rare earths are the raw ingredients in nearly every modern technology: batteries, jets, radar systems, smartphones, the whole stack. Right now, China processes more than 90 percent of global supply. Myanmar's mines, most of which are barely regulated, are one of the few alternatives. But China is already embedded there too, refining the ore across the border and flooding global markets.

For the US, that's a nightmare scenario. It means China not only dominates the processing game but is also securing the upstream supply chain. So if Washington wants to reduce dependency, it can't just keep shouting from a distance. It needs to be inside the room. That room, like it or not, includes people with close ties to the military.



Strategically, this starts to make sense. US grand strategy, as discussed by Hal Brands in *American Grand Strategy in the Age of Trump*, rarely prioritises ideals over positioning. It's often reactive, improvisational, and focused on regaining leverage. Robert Kaplan's *The Revenge of Geography* helps explain why Myanmar matters regardless of its internal politics, because where it sits matters. Chokepoints like the Bay of Bengal are too important to leave open to adversaries



John Mearsheimer's structural realism, outlined in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, provides the grim rationale: in a zero-sum world, you engage where your rivals thrive, even if it means dealing with actors you'd otherwise shun. Michael Klare's *The Race for What's Left* adds the final piece: resources define 21st-century power. Controlling or disrupting rare earth supply chains is no longer just an economic concern;

Of course, none of this will sit well with rights groups or Myanmar's pro-democracy forces. It sends a confusing message: that the junta's crimes can be overlooked if the timing suits. That may be true, but it's also consistent with how international politics often works. Morality, unfortunately, is a variable, not a constant, especially when strategic minerals, shipping lanes, and regional influence are in play.

So here we are. The US lifted sanctions on some military-linked figures. It didn't do it out of friendship. It did it to stay in the game—to push back, however subtly, against China's tightening grip on Southeast Asia's most strategic fault line. It's messy, uncomfortable, and maybe even risky. But in the long run, it might be the only way to get a seat at a table that's already being set, without Washington.



# SANCTION

And still, even beyond the resource game, there are other layers. One is maritime control. China has been busy building its "String of Pearls"—a network of ports and naval facilities stretching from mainland China to the Horn of Africa. Myanmar's coast, particularly the Kyaukpyu port, is a jewel in that string. For Washington, preventing this region from becoming a Chinese naval corridor is a high priority, even if it means taking uncomfortable steps. Another layer is regional diplomacy. Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka are watching. All of them are trying to balance relations with Beijing and Washington. The US, by engaging Myanmar, even symbolically, may be signalling that it can be pragmatic, offering carrots, not just sticks.

There's also the issue of influence down the road. The Myanmar junta is under pressure, economically, militarily, and diplomatically. Ethnic armed groups are gaining ground. The economy is a mess. If things fall apart, and they very well might, the US will want contacts inside the country who aren't just civil society activists or dissidents in exile. It'll need people who know how things work on the ground, even if those people have, until now, been on the other side of the ledger. Lifting sanctions might be less about rewarding anyone, and more about rebalancing options. In diplomatic terms, this is keeping the door ajar without committing to a full pivot.



**Syed Raiyan Amir**  
Senior Research Associate

## BANGLADESH'S CHIEF ADVISER PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD YUNUS WELCOMES UN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON 2024 PROTESTS, CALLS FOR REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Important discussions were held today between Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, and a wide range of experts, human rights defenders, and civil society leaders, focusing on the United Nations Human Rights Fact-Finding Report on last year's mass protests.

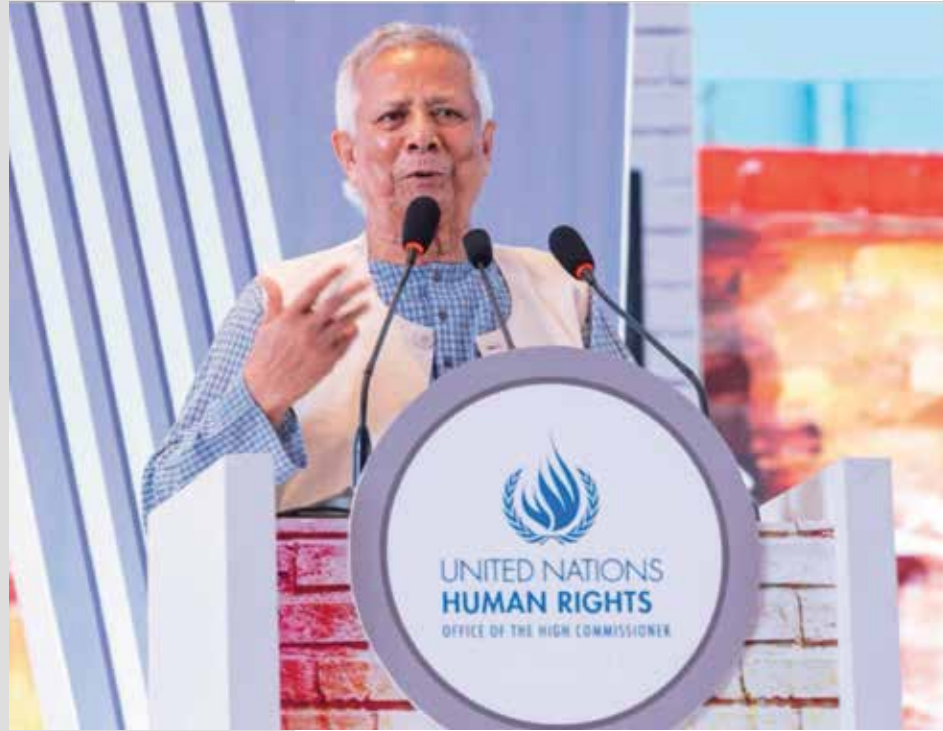
The dialogue emphasized the need to learn from past violations and implement meaningful reforms to prevent future recurrence.

"We are grateful that the UN Human Rights Report has not only covered all such events of July–August, it also offered a set of recommendations to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future," said Chief Adviser Yunus, acknowledging the report's comprehensive scope and constructive approach.

The UN report documents alleged human rights abuses that occurred during the July–August 2024 protests in Bangladesh and provides a framework for justice, reform, and institutional accountability.

Participants in the event urged all stakeholders to uphold the principles of human dignity, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly, calling for immediate steps to implement the report's recommendations.

The event, which drew attention from international observers and diplomatic missions, reaffirmed Bangladesh's interim government's intent to engage with international mechanisms and civil society to rebuild trust and uphold the rule of law and human rights.



## KOSOVO AMBASSADOR WELCOMES GRAMEEN DELEGATION TO DHAKA, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL BUSINESS COOPERATION



H.E. Lulzim PLLANA, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Bangladesh, warmly received a distinguished delegation from Grameen Group and Grameen Trust, including former project leaders of Grameen Kosovo, at the Kosovo Embassy in Dhaka today.

The meeting reflected on the delegation's contributions to Kosovo's post-war recovery, particularly through microcredit initiatives and grassroots social business models that were inspired by Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus's "Three Zeros" philosophy—zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions.

Key areas of discussion included revitalizing cooperation in social business, vocational education, and digital health, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to expanding joint efforts toward inclusive and sustainable development.

Among the visiting delegates were Ms. Lamiya Morshed, Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs at the Chief Adviser's Office and a pioneer in Grameen Kosovo's early efforts in 2000, and Mr. Ashraful Hassan, Chairman of Grameen Group, along with other key colleagues who played critical roles in the initiative's formative years.

Ambassador PLLANA extended heartfelt appreciation to the Grameen team, recognizing their enduring impact in fostering cross-national solidarity and strengthening the bonds between Kosovo and Bangladesh. He praised Grameen's visionary role in Kosovo's rebuilding journey and expressed optimism for deeper collaboration in the years ahead.

# STRENGTHENING BANGLADESH-U.S. TRADE RELATIONS: TARIFF REDUCTIONS AND A COMPREHENSIVE TRADE AGREEMENT

Nijamuddin Reja



**Agricultural Cooperation:**\* As part of the deal, Bangladesh will increase its purchases of U.S. soybean oil for government use and collaborate with American firms to build silos and related infrastructure for storing U.S. soybeans in Bangladesh. This partnership aims to strengthen Bangladesh's agricultural supply chain and food security.

**Strategic Trade Adjustments:**\* Washington has also urged Bangladesh to reduce its purchases from China, aligning with the broader U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy to balance regional influence.

#### Enhancing Regulatory Alignment and Market Access

The trade agreement will further harmonize Bangladesh's regulatory framework with U.S. standards, facilitating smoother market access and increased trust:

\* **Medical Devices and Food Safety:**\* Bangladesh will accept prior marketing authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as sufficient for approving medical devices. Additionally, it will recognize the U.S. dairy safety system as equivalent to its own and accept USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service oversight for U.S. meat, poultry, and egg products, including associated cold storage and processing facilities.

\* **Transparency and Intellectual Property Protection:**\* Bangladesh has pledged to submit comprehensive notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) disclosing all government subsidies. It will also address outstanding arrears owed to U.S. firms in line with commitments under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program.

\* On the regulatory front, Bangladesh will ensure that laws, administrative rulings, and proposed regulations are published promptly and made accessible online. This includes conducting regulatory impact assessments and issuing explanatory notes to improve transparency.

\* Strengthening intellectual property protections is also a key element, with Bangladesh committing to fair and transparent procedures for trademark and patent examination, opposition, and cancellation.



#### Economic and Strategic Significance

This comprehensive agreement marks a strategic evolution in Bangladesh's trade orientation. For Bangladesh, the deal promises to diversify its export base, attract higher-quality foreign direct investment, and enhance its regulatory environment to international standards.

For the United States, strengthening economic ties with Bangladesh fits within a larger geopolitical context. As competition intensifies with China in the Indo-Pacific region, the U.S. seeks to bolster economic alliances with key partners like Bangladesh to promote regional stability and economic growth.

#### ##### Implications for Bangladesh's Economy and Society

The trade agreement and tariff reductions have several far-reaching implications:

\* **Job Creation and Economic Growth:**\* By improving market access and investment climate, the deal supports job creation in both traditional sectors like textiles and emerging industries such as energy and infrastructure.

\* **Foreign Exchange and Fiscal Stability:**\* Increased exports and investment inflows will bolster Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves, contributing to macroeconomic stability.

\* **Technology Transfer and Standards Upgrade:**\* Aligning with U.S. regulations encourages Bangladesh to raise product quality and safety standards, fostering innovation and enhancing competitiveness.

\* **Food Security and Agricultural Development:**\* Enhanced cooperation on agricultural products like soybeans will improve Bangladesh's food storage and supply systems.

## Tariff Reduction: A Game Changer for Bangladesh Exports

Under the Trump administration, the United States reduced tariffs on Bangladeshi exports from a high rate of 35 percent down to 20 percent. This substantial tariff cut helped ease trade tensions between the two countries and demonstrated Washington's commitment to strengthening commercial ties with Bangladesh. The reduction has been especially impactful in Bangladesh's key export sectors, notably ready-made garments (RMG), which constitute the backbone of the country's export economy.

Lower tariffs directly translate into more competitive pricing for Bangladeshi products in the U.S. market, making them more attractive to American consumers and retailers. This, in turn, has helped Bangladesh expand its export volumes, increase foreign exchange earnings, and create employment opportunities for millions, especially women, in the manufac-



## Expanding Beyond Apparel: The Pending Comprehensive Trade Agreement

Building on this positive momentum, Bangladesh and the United States are negotiating a broader trade agreement that extends beyond apparel to include diverse sectors such as agriculture, energy, aviation, and infrastructure development. Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman has confirmed that Bangladesh is prepared to sign the agreement once the U.S. sends the final document, although specific details have yet to be publicly disclosed.

Under the proposed framework:

**Investment Barriers Will Be Removed:\*** Bangladesh has committed to easing restrictions on U.S. investments in key sectors, including oil and gas, insurance, and telecommunications. This will provide American investors with clearer and more accessible pathways to participate in Bangladesh's growing economy.

**Regulatory Facilitation:\*** The government will streamline processes such as issuing no-objection certificates and establish transparent guidelines for capital transfers using freely usable currencies at prevailing exchange rates. This regulatory clarity is crucial to attract and retain foreign investment.



## Conclusion

The recent tariff reduction and the proposed comprehensive trade agreement between Bangladesh and the United States represent a new chapter in bilateral economic relations. This evolving partnership promises to accelerate Bangladesh's economic development, broaden its export base, and integrate the country more deeply into global value chains.

By embracing regulatory reforms, investment facilitation, and sectoral diversification, Bangladesh is positioning itself as a dynamic partner in U.S. trade and investment strategy. Meanwhile, the United States gains a reliable ally in a geopolitically vital region, reinforcing economic ties amidst shifting global power dynamics.

Together, these developments signal a win-win scenario that will drive sustainable growth, strengthen economic resilience, and deepen the longstanding friendship between Bangladesh and the United States..



**Nijamuddin Reja,**  
*Architect*

## SOUTH AFRICAN ENVOY CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TRADE AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES WITH BANGLADESH



Professor Anil Sooklal, South Africa's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, has called for enhanced bilateral trade and stronger people-to-people connections between Bangladesh and South Africa during his visit to Dhaka.

Speaking at a program organized by the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, High Commissioner Sooklal remarked that while there is significant untapped potential in economic relations between the two nations, mutual visibility remains limited.

“I believe both sides are not fully aware of what the other can offer. This lack of awareness affects business. We need to make our relationship more visible,” he said.

Although South Africa currently has no permanent mission in Dhaka, efforts are underway to simplify visa processes through VFS Global. “We’ve proposed alternative methods to make the application process easier so that the absence of an embassy doesn’t become a barrier,” he added.

He affirmed that the establishment of a South African embassy in Dhaka remains a priority, and that discussions are ongoing regarding its implementation.

To revitalize bilateral momentum, he stressed the need to hold Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) urgently, ideally before the end of this year. “FOC is a key indicator of the progress in bilateral relations,” he said.

Acknowledging progress over the past three decades, he noted that institutional-level energy and renewed efforts are required to deepen ties.

He also revealed plans to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between a major South African business chamber and a Bangladeshi counterpart later this year.

he envoy, who also represents South Africa in India and Nepal, highlighted trade, investment, education, culture, sports, and pharmaceuticals as potential sectors for deepened cooperation.

He emphasized that economic ties would largely be private sector-driven, and governments should act as facilitators. “I believe that enabling environment already exists, though some challenges remain. Visa issues are one of them,” he noted.



He proposed that private sector representatives be included in Bangladesh’s delegation for the next FOC, expected in October or November, to allow MoU signing and enhanced business engagement.

On the question of security concerns for foreigners in South Africa, he admitted that “from time to time, some targeted violence has occurred against specific communities,” but clarified that these were incited by small extremist groups, and the government had taken swift and effective measures.

Security agencies remain actively engaged, and he encouraged the Bangladeshi embassy in South Africa to coordinate more closely with South African authorities to ensure the well-being of the nearly 400,000 Bangladeshis currently residing there.

“This large diaspora itself creates an opportunity to strengthen our bilateral relationship,” he said.

Highlighting key areas for collaboration, he pointed out that Bangladesh is part of a massive regional market, and South Africa—with its advanced infrastructure—can serve as a gateway to the broader Sub-Saharan region.

He stressed untapped potential in the agriculture sector, suggesting Bangladesh’s expertise could combine with South Africa’s land resources for joint ventures.

He also emphasized mutual benefits in the minerals and mining industries, where South Africa holds extensive experience.

Beyond trade and investment, Professor Sooklal stressed the importance of people-to-people exchange, particularly involving students, teachers, researchers, and journalists, to make the bilateral relationship more tangible and dynamic.

He concluded that this engagement marks a new chapter in South Africa–Bangladesh relations, with a focus on inclusive growth, institutional cooperation, and stronger civil ties.

## ALGERIAN MINISTER SIGNS CONDOLENCE BOOK AT BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ALGERIA, EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY AFTER TRAGIC DHAKA PLANE CRASH



The Minister of Mujahedeen and Rights Holders, M. Eid Rebiga, signed the condolence book today, Thursday, at the Bangladeshi Embassy in Algiers, following the crash of a military aircraft that collided with a school building in the capital Dhaka, leaving dozens dead and injured. Rebiga added: "In the wake of this tragic accident, we offer you, on behalf of the President of the Republic and on behalf of the Algerian government and people, our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy and compassion." He concluded his message by affirming 'Algeria's solidarity with the sister Republic of Bangladesh, and we are confident that the Bangladeshi people will be able to overcome the effects of this painful ordeal."



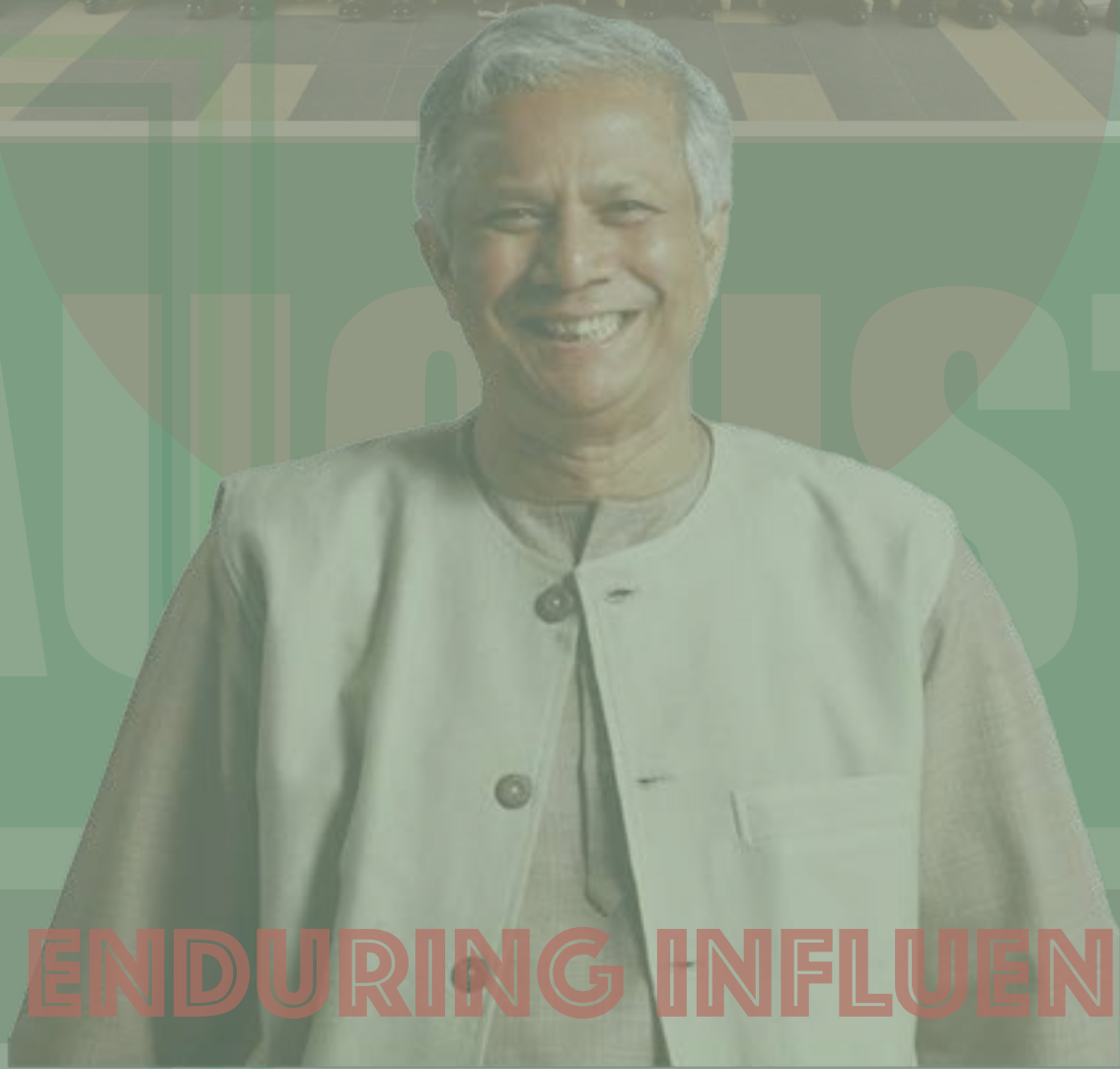
AUGUST 2025

# The AMBASSADOR

DIPLOMACY | DEFENSE | GLOBAL AFFAIRS



## A YEAR OF REFLECTION:



## THE ENDURING INFLUENCE