

CBGA NEWS DIGEST

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PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA SPEAKS ABOUT UNITED STATES SANCTIONS ON RAB

When the United States imposed sanctions on RAB and some of its officials, Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina said this was an abominable move.

'I think imposing sanctions (on RAB and some of its officials) after all these successes (containing militancy, drugs, pirates and terrorists) is very much an abominable act,' she said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the RAB Forces Headquarters' Shaheed Lieutenant Colonel Azad Memorial Hall on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the formation of the Rapid Action Battalion. From her official residence in Ganobhaban, the Prime Minister took part in the meeting. A member of a law enforcement agency in Bangladesh can be punished for their involvement by its own legislation in any criminal activity, according to her.

'But it's a matter of regret that they imposed sanctions on some RAB members without any fault or cause. In their country they do not take any action against any member of their forces for their criminal activities,' she said.

A child was shot and killed in the United States because he put his hands in his pockets, and in another case, a law enforcement officer strangled a person on the street because they were resisting arrest. 'For that reason, they did not get punished,' she said. She claimed that Bangladesh is the only country in the world where law enforcement officials implicated in crimes face criminal penalties. - 28th March, *The Daily Star*

WESTERN LEADERS SIT TO DISCUSS ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

An all-out military buildup on Europe's eastern flank is expected at the NATO summit in Brussels, where Western leaders have gathered.

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its second month, NATO, the Group of Seven, and the European Union will hold back-to-back emergency meetings on Thursday to devise strategies for increasing pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin. Despite the fact that Russia's economy has already been crippled by a slew of embargoes and boycotts over the last four weeks, President Trump is expected to press European allies to impose additional sanctions on Russia.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has unified the West, but the costs of war will likely test that unity in a global economy that is already suffering.

"We hope to hear that the resolve and unity we have seen for the past month will continue for as long as it takes," Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told reporters on Air Force One en route to Brussels. During the European Council summit, leaders from Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece will be hoping for an urgent and coordinated response to the war-exacerbated energy crisis. - March 24, *Al Jazeera*



BANGLADESH STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE HOUTHIS



An attack by Houthi militias on Saudi Arabian civilian infrastructure and energy installations on March 25, 2022, has been strongly condemned by Bangladesh. Drone and ballistic missile attacks on Saudi civilian targets are "a flagrant violation" of international law, according to a statement from Bangladesh's foreign ministry received here today.

According to the report, Bangladesh is shocked at the timing of the Houthis' attack, which occurred just days before GCC-sponsored peace talks in Riyadh scheduled to begin on March 29, 2022. The stability of the kingdom and the region is threatened by these cowardly and unlawful acts of terrorism, according to the statement.

Saudi Arabia's brotherly people and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are in Bangladesh's thoughts and prayers, the country's Foreign Ministry said. Additionally, Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the country remains firmly committed to all efforts aimed at maintaining regional peace and stability. - March 28, *BSS News*



THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THE GENOCIDE OF THE ROHINGYAS

While the US decision to label a military crackdown on the Rohingya minority in Myanmar as genocide is a triumph for human rights advocates, activists warn it will do little to ease their suffering.

More than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims remain in refugee camps in junta-ruled Myanmar, after more than a million fleeing the Buddhist majority country in 2017 and taking refuge in Bangladesh at this moment. They brought with them allegations of rape, murder, and burning. The United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, claimed that the violence was "the equivalent of genocide and a major crime against humanity," which might lead to further sanctions against the already isolated junta, as well as restrictions on humanitarian help, according to reports in the media. A Rohingya rights activist, Thin Thin Hlaing, applauded the decision.

Since ousting Aung San Suu Kyi's government last year, the junta has doubled down on widespread perceptions that the Rohingya are interlopers from Bangladesh and continues to deny them citizenship, rights, and access to services. - March 22, [The Daily Star](#)

MYANMAR JUNTA REACTS TO US RECOGNITION OF ROHINGYA GENOCIDE

After the United States accused Myanmar's military five years ago of genocide against the majority-Muslim Rohingya minority, the junta responded on Tuesday by saying it "categorically rejects" that claim. It was officially declared on Monday that violence against Rohingya people constitutes genocide and that there is clear evidence of an attempt to "destroy" the group. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Myanmar's junta-appointed foreign ministry slammed the declaration as "far from reality."

"Myanmar has never engaged in any genocidal actions and does not have any genocidal intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, racial or religious group or any other group," it said.

Aung San Suu Kyi's administration was ousted last year, and since then, the junta has redoubled its efforts to portray the Rohingya as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and to deny them access to basic amenities.

Thousands were killed and nearly one million people forced to flee their homes in 2016 and 2017 as evidence that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had "determined that members of the Burmese military committed genocide and crimes against humanity against Rohingya. - March 23, [The Daily Star](#)



WORLD LEADERS APPLAUD BANGLADESH ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

On the occasion of Bangladesh's Independence Day, world leaders have greeted the people and leaders of the country, promising to strengthen their ties with Bangladesh in order to promote prosperity and stability.

A statement by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken indicates that the United States wants to strengthen its relationship with Bangladesh so that the two nations can prosper together. Throughout the past five decades, the two countries have worked together to ensure a safer and more prosperous future, Blinken said, praising Bangladesh's impressive economic and development achievements. The US Secretary of State said, "Our defense, development, commercial, and people-to-people partnership is stronger than ever," praising the country's role as the world's largest contributor to peacekeeping operations.

The Russian president also congratulated President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on their successful re-election campaigns. He emphasized the good traditions of friendship and mutual respect that underlie relations between Russia and Bangladesh. As governments of the two countries work together, he is confident that constructive bilateral cooperation will continue to grow in a variety of areas, including political, economic, humanitarian, and more.

Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, said that this cooperation "undoubtedly serves the interests of their people and promotes regional stability and security."

Dr AK Abdul Momen and the Bangladeshi people were greeted by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. To his followers on Twitter, Jaishankar expressed his excitement about the prospect of furthering India-Bangladesh Maitri's illustrious history. According to the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, the two countries intend to build on their strong relationship based on shared values of respect, trust, and understanding.

President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh were congratulated by leaders of the United Arab Emirates in separate messages. By illuminating the Bangladesh flag on its tallest building, the United Arab Emirates is also celebrating Bangladesh's Independence Day. Similar messages have been sent to the UAE president and prime minister by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE vice president and prime minister, as well as by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Dubai and crown prince of Abu Dhabi. - March 26, [The Daily Star](#)

OIC ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON ROHINGYA ISSUE



The Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC unanimously adopted a resolution titled "Situation of the Rohingya Muslim Community in Myanmar" to maintain pressure on Myanmar authorities. Masud Bin Momen, Bangladesh's foreign secretary, led a five-member Bangladesh delegation to the 48th CFM, which was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from March 22 to 23, with the theme of 'Partnering for Unity, Justice, and Development.'

A foreign ministry press release in Dhaka stated that in his speech, Masud urged member states and international actors to take a proactive role in addressing the Rohingya issue. To ensure the safe and dignified return of Rohingyas to their homeland, he urged everyone to stay involved. In addition, he urged the OIC's member states to make voluntary contributions to the fund set up to handle Myanmar's case before the International Criminal Court.

He reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to the OIC's founding principles of peace, prosperity, and development, which he said would not be relinquished. He praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's economic management during the Covid-19 period and called for an equitable distribution of vaccines and the transfer of vaccine technology.

Masud also stated Bangladesh's strong commitment to establishing a peace process for Palestine and denouncing Islamophobia as well as hate crimes against Muslims. - March 24, [New Age](#)

ZELENSKY OFFERS NEUTRALITY TO ESTABLISH PEACE IN UKRAINE

President Volodymyr Zelensky said ahead of another scheduled round of talks that Ukraine could declare impartiality and offer security assurances to Russia to secure peace "without delay," though he said only a face-to-face meeting with Russia's leader could end the war. Although Zelensky hinted that Ukraine might be willing to make concessions, he insisted that Ukraine's priority is protecting its sovereignty and "territorial integrity" — preventing Russia from carving up the country, which is now widely believed to be Moscow's goal, according to Ukraine and the West.



As for the non-nuclear status of our state, "we are ready to go for it," Zelensky said. Ukrainian President Poroshenko has hinted at this before, but never with such vehemence, and his remarks come as the two sides prepare to resume negotiations on Tuesday. In the past, Russia has repeatedly asked that Ukraine abandon its plans to join the NATO alliance in the West. After Russian troops leave, Ukraine should hold a referendum on neutrality, which would keep the country out of NATO and other military alliances, according to Zelensky.

He has also long insisted that Ukraine needs its own security guarantees as part of any agreement. On the other hand, "We must come to an agreement with the president of the Russian Federation," Trump said during an interview that Russia's media had been barred from publishing.

Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, said on Monday that a meeting between the two presidents is possible, but only if the key components of a possible agreement are negotiated first. In an interview with Serbian media, Lavrov stated, "The meeting is necessary once we have clarity regarding solutions on all key issues." Accusing the Ukrainians of only wanting to "imitate" talks, he insisted that Russia needed concrete outcomes. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko delivered a video message to the nation overnight, in which he called for "immediate" peace talks to begin in Istanbul. According to the Turkish leader's office, President Erdogan and Russian President Putin agreed to meet at that location on Sunday. Monday is the tentative arrival date for the delegation of negotiators. - March 28, [PBS News Hour](#)

XI JINGPING DECIDES TO INTESIFY HIS "NO LIMITS" STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH PUTIN

Xi Jinping's decision to double down on his "no limits" strategic bromance with Vladimir Putin, just days before the Russian dictator launched his war in Ukraine, marks the most dangerous and short-sighted gamble of his nine years in power, according to a growing number of observers.

Europe's biggest conflict since World War II has all the ingredients to pose the greatest threat yet to Xi's leadership, coming as it does ahead of his decisive twentieth Chinese Communist Party Congress in November if Putin's military withdrawal, failure or political ouster occurs. In the eyes of geopolitical experts, Xi will be re-elected to a third term, and perhaps even "leader for life," at the upcoming Congress. That said, Kevin Rudd, the former Australian prime minister, tells me that any Putin failure "could create the chemistry necessary for a rethink of Chinese leadership within the party." It's still "comprehensive," but it's far from "full," says Rudd.

Xi must begin to contemplate the consequences of the demise of Putin. US Vice President Joe Biden deviated from his prepared text to suggest what price Putin should pay for his unjustified, unprovoked, and criminal war against Ukrainian civilians, making it one of the most significant speeches of his long political career. Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's Secretary-General, referred to Xi as Putin's "enabler" three days earlier in Brussels. Chinese officials have joined Moscow in questioning the independence of sovereign states, he said. In addition to spreading outright lies and misinformation, China has provided political support to Russia.

The future of the global order and the people who will shape it are at stake if Ukraine is to survive. As a result of Vladimir Putin threatening Ukraine, the world's democracies must shift from a reactive response to a proactive one. The failure of Putin in Ukraine could reverse the authoritarian momentum around the world, disrupt the strategic common cause of Xi and Putin, and expose the hypocrisy that taints Xi's global ambitions. It is important for Xi to consider the bigger picture, which includes his desire to secure his northern border, his reliance on Russian energy (now widely discounted), and the benefits that China derives from Russia's efforts to destabilize and distract the United States around the world, including during this year's presidential elections here in the United States. Finally, given Xi's commitment to the relationship, which has included more than 30 meetings since 2014, even a weak Putin is preferable to no Putin at all. Because of the dire consequences of Putin's ouster, Xi is more likely to support a last-minute peace agreement that falls far short of Putin's ambitious goals for Ukraine. - March 27, [The Atlantic Council](#)



DELHI CLAIMS TO EASE BORDER TENSIONS BEFORE SINO-INDIAN NORMALIZATION

On Friday, Indian Foreign Minister and Chinese Foreign Minister met in New Delhi and struck a conciliatory tone in their discussions. Since June 2020, when 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand combat in the northern Himalayan region of Ladakh, both countries have sent thousands of troops to guard the high-altitude border. There has been little progress in the discussions between senior military officers. The more you read, the better.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said after his three-hour meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi: "I was very honest in my discussions with the Chinese foreign minister, especially in conveying our national sentiments." "A normal relationship between the two neighbors cannot be reconciled with the frictions and tensions that have arisen from China's deployments since April 2020."

For the sake of world peace and stability, Wang urged China and India to join forces in a statement. According to him, "the two sides should put their differences on the boundary issue into an appropriate position in bilateral relations and adhere to the correct development direction of bilateral relations." "Since the so-called "unipolar Asia" is not a goal of China's foreign policy, India has a significant influence in the region. When China and India work together, the world's attention will be riveted."

A former ambassador to Beijing, Jaishankar, said it was at China's request that India did not announce Wang's arrival in Delhi before he arrived late on Thursday. - March 25, [Reuters](#)

BOTH ASIAN GIANTS AGREE FOR A CEASEFIRE ON UKRAINE



As Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi met Friday, they agreed on the need for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine. Despite Western calls for condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both Asian countries consider Russia an ally and have rejected Western calls for condemnation. 'Special military operation,' the Russians say. - March 25, [Reuters](#)

PAKISTAN'S 1971 MAYHEMS ON BANGLADESH CONDEMNED BY UNITED KINGDOM



Saida Muna Tasneem, Bangladesh's High Commissioner in London, said that the British Parliament has condemned Pakistan's atrocities during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. Sir Peter Shore MP, the then chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, placed a motion in parliament condemning Pakistan's atrocities during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, during a virtual discussion organized by the high commission and University College London to commemorate Bangladesh Independence Day on Friday. In a subsequent motion, over 233 MPs called for an end to Bangladesh's genocide and recognition of the country's independence. It is now time for the British Parliament to introduce a new motion to recognize genocide, the high commission said in a statement on Saturday.

Pakistani forces committed one of the worst genocides in history in 1971, and Tasneem has urged the British Parliament to recognize this atrocity. For Bangladesh's Independence Day celebrations on Friday, the British High Commission and University College London hosted a virtual discussion in honor of former Foreign Affairs Select Committee chairman Sir Peter Shore MP's motion in parliament condemning Pakistani atrocities during Bangladesh's Liberation War. The Pakistani Army launched 'Operation Searchlight' in March 1971, which sparked a series of targeted killings, massacres, and organized rapes of women in the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). - March 28, [The Times of India](#)

THE UNITED STATES CANCEL TALKS WITH TALIBAN IN DOHA

In response to the Taliban's decision to close Afghanistan's secondary schools for female students, the United States has canceled planned talks in Doha with the Taliban. Jalina Porter, a State Department deputy spokeswoman, said on Friday that "we have cancelled some of our engagements, including planned meetings in Doha around the Doha Forum, and have made clear that we see this decision as a potential turning point in our engagement."



Girls' secondary schools were shut down by the Taliban this week, just hours after reopening, as the group seeks international recognition. Officials in Kandahar, the movement's de facto power center and conservative spiritual heartland, met late Tuesday and decided to keep girls' schools closed.

- March 27, [The Daily Star](#)

IMRAN KHAN BLAMES FOREIGN POWERS IN ATTEMPT TO TOPPLE HIS GOVERNMENT

On Tuesday, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan accused foreign powers of participating in a "conspiracy" to topple his coalition government by introducing a vote of no confidence. Imran cited a letter as "evidence" for his claims that foreign agents are enlisting local politicians and funneling money their way in order to "mend the country's foreign policy. According to the premier, "I rarely write my speeches... but I wrote this speech today so that I don't get emotionally involved and say anything that can affect our foreign policy."



He also claimed that foreign elements were involved in changing the regimes in Pakistan. At his party's "historic" public gathering in Islamabad, Pakistan's embattled prime minister proclaimed: "It's time for us to unite."

According to Imran, he has all the evidence he needs to back up his claims, which he plans to reveal at the "right time." "As a result of the actions of previous leaders, our country has received threats.

- March 28, [The Daily Star](#)

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