

CBGA NEWS DIGEST

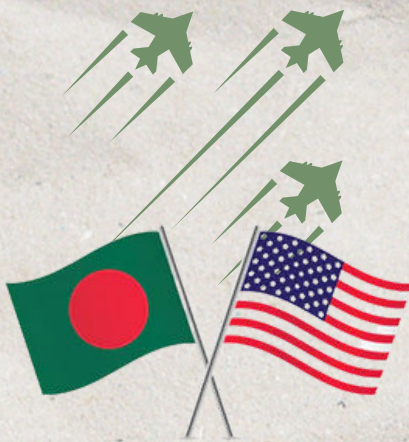
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BANGLADESH | DIPLOMACY | SECURITY | CONFLICT | DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENT | GLOBAL AFFAIRS



BANGLADESH-US DEFENCE DIALOGUE HELD

Bangladesh and the United States recently held their ninth Bangladesh-US Defense Dialogue. The ISPR published a press release on May 25 stating that the bilateral defense talks took place from May 17 to May 18. In 2012, Bangladesh and the United States signed a joint declaration establishing the Bilateral Defense Dialogue (BDD). Since then, the BDD has alternated between Bangladesh and the United States each year. On October 8, 2020, the 8th BD-US Defense Dialogue was held through Video Tele Conference (VTC).



A two-day defense debate was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, this year as part of that framework. As a followup to the strategic dialogue, the goal of this meeting was to open up a wide-ranging debate on bilateral defense and military cooperation. Bangladesh and the United States have a long and fruitful history of defense cooperation. US assistance for Bangladesh's Armed Forces in defense development and training is unquestionable. The Bangladesh Armed Forces sends a number of personnel to the United States for training each year, according to a statement from the ISPR. The two countries' military services have collaborated on UN peacekeeping deployments in the fight against terrorism.

Another aspect of military cooperation is the exchange of high-ranking military leaders between the two countries. As a result of this meeting, decisions were made to improve ties between the two countries. Increasing our military's ability to work together in the areas of global and regional security as well as disaster management and peacekeeping operations as well as joint drills and deployments, this discussion will improve our military's ability to operate together around the globe. Bgt Husain Muhammad Masihur Rahman, Director-General, Directorate of Operations and Plan, Armed Forces Division, was in charge of leading the Bangladeshi delegation, while Bgt Tom James, Director-of-Strategic Planning and Policy, US Indo-Pacific Command, was in charge of leading the US mission. The Bangladeshi Embassy's Defense Attaché in the United States was also present during the discussion. . - May 25, [Bangladesh Post](#)

PM SEEKS HELP FROM JAPAN AND OECD

Sheikh Hasina today urged Japan and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to provide preferential facilities at least until 2029 so that Bangladesh can attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and become a developing nation.



Her words: "We would greatly welcome it if Japan and other OECD nations did so (to extend preferential facilities) at least until 2029 to help us achieve the broad goals of sustainable development by 2030." she stated. In a video statement presented during the 27th International Nikkei Conference on the Future of Asia, Japan's Prime Minister said this. - May 27, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

UNCERTAINTY IN REPATRIATION IS FORCING THE ROHINGYAS INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES: PM



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the long wait for repatriation is making Rohingyas more likely to do bad things. "They (Rohingyas) are getting angry because their repatriation is taking so long," she said. "This could be dangerous because it makes many of them want to get involved in illegal activities." Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees for the United Nations (UNHCR), paid a courtesy call on the prime minister at her official residence in Ganabhaban. The prime minister said these things to Grandi. After the meeting, Ihsanul Karim, who is the press secretary for the PM, briefed the reporters. Sheikh Hasina told the UNHCR that the government of Bangladesh is helping people get an informal education that is based on Myanmar's curriculum and language, as well as activities for skill development that are similar to what is available in Rakhine state. | She said that over 1.1 million Myanmar people who were forced to leave their homes have ruined the environment in Ukhia, which is in Cox's Bazar and has a deep forest. She said, "They are cutting down trees in the forest, which is making the area very dangerous for the environment." She also said that every year 45,000 Rohingya babies are born. - May 24, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

MOMEN ASKS FOR GREATER ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR ROHINGYA REPATRIATION



Dr. AK Abdul Momen, Bangladesh's foreign minister, said today that Dhaka wants the international community and UNHCR to do more to help forcefully displaced Rohingya people go back to their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine state. "Bangladesh expects the International Community and UNHCR in particular to step up their activities in Rakhine to make it easier for the persecuted Rohingya to return to Rakhine," he said.

This was said by the Foreign Minister when he met with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Under-Secretary General Filippo Grandi at the state guest house in Padma. Dr. Momen said that a sustainable repatriation of the Rohingya people depends on the international community taking an active role in building trust among them. He thanked UNHCR for continuing to help with humanitarian operations for the Rohingya who were forced to leave their homes. He also asked the high commissioner to work with Myanmar to make it easier for the Rohingya to go back home quickly in Rakhine State. - May 25, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

BANGLADESH-KOREA SIGNS AN AGREEMENT ON THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY



It was announced today that Bangladesh's Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Korea's Atomic Energy Research Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Dr Park Won Seok, president of KAERI, Dr Azizul Haque, chairman of BAEC, and Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun were in attendance at the signing event, which took place at the BAEC office in Dhaka. As part of the MoU, KAERI and BAEC will work together on a wide range of peaceful nuclear energy applications, including nuclear reactor development, radioisotope manufacturing and application, neutron science development, and nuclear waste management. | Signing the MoU is expected to give the existing partnership between the two agencies a boost, and Korea believes it will. Dr Park Won Seok expressed his confidence in cultivating and strengthening trusting partnerships in the peaceful use of nuclear energy by mentioning that KAERI has established a solid infrastructure and operation know-how for research reactors through the development of Korea's HANARO, Jordan's JRTR, and the Netherlands' OYSTER over the last 50 years. The signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Korea and Bangladesh, according to Ambassador Lee Jang-keun, is noteworthy because it opens a new path for collaborative efforts in the fields of nuclear energy and science. - May 25, [The Daily Star](#)

SRI LANKA TAKES RUSSIAN OIL DESPITE SANCTIONS

An oil shipment from Russia has arrived in Sri Lanka, allowing the country's only refinery to reopen, the country's energy minister has announced. Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera told reporters on Saturday that Sri Lanka had been waiting offshore for over a month for the arrival of Russian crude oil, which could soon be subject to a European embargo. A 90,000-ton supply of Russian oil would cost Sri Lanka \$72.6 million, according to the country's energy minister. For help importing crude and other petroleum products, Wijesekera claimed that he has "reached out to a number of countries, including Russia." He added that the 90,000-tonne supply was ordered through Dubai's Coral Energy and will help revive the country's lone refinery, which has been shut down since March 25. The minister claimed that "The same company will be contacted to place an order for the upcoming shipment as well. In order to maintain the refinery functioning at full capacity, a new shipment will be required within the next two weeks, he said. Talks are underway between Colombo and Moscow to set up direct deliveries of crude oil and coal, as well as diesel and gasoline, despite US-led sanctions on Russian banks and a global diplomatic outcry over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. - May 28, [Al Jazeera](#)

UNSC FAILS TO COME TO A CONCLUSION ON MYANMAR

There was no agreement on a statement from the UN Security Council (UNSC) on Friday that would have pressured Myanmar's military regime to take steps toward peace, diplomats said. They blamed each other for failing to reach an agreement after a closed-door UN Security Council discussion on Myanmar in the morning. China's "too much" demand for London led to the breakdown of discussions. - May 28, [Bangkok Post](#)

MOMEN CALLS TEESTA AGREEMENT DELAY A SHAME

It is "unfortunate" and "a shame" that India and Bangladesh have been unable to sign the Teesta water sharing agreement for 11 years, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said. "It's a shame we couldn't finalize the Teesta water sharing agreement after 11 years of trying. Despite our best efforts, the agreement has yet to be finalized. Preparation is needed for a huge demand for water in the future "In Guwahati, India, he told NDTV. In an interview with NDTV conducted on the margins of the NADI Conclave in Guwahati on May 28-29, Momen stated that Bangladesh and India share 54 rivers and that the two countries are eager to work together on joint management of all of these water resources. To ensure the well-being of the entire basin area, "joint management" is a must. - May 30, [The Daily Star](#)

SEPARATIST LEADER IN KASHMIR GETS LIFE TERM FOR TERRORIST FUNDING



In a terror funding case, a court in Delhi gave Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik life in prison on Wednesday. He had already pleaded guilty to all charges, including those under the strict Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Before the court in Delhi, the NIA had asked for Malik to be put to death. In private court proceedings, the agency told Special Judge Praveen Singh that Malik was to blame for the people leaving Kashmir. On the subject of the sentence, sources told the news agency PTI that Malik said he wouldn't "beg" for mercy and that the court could decide what to do on its own. Amicus curiae, a person the court chose to help Malik, had asked for the minimum punishment, which in this case was life in prison. Malik, on the other hand, said that he would quit politics and be willing to be hanged if Indian Intelligence could prove that he had been involved in any terrorism or violence in the past 28 years. But the judge said that since he was already found guilty, there was no point in arguing about the facts of the case and that he had already had the chance to do so. - May 25, [Hindustan Times](#)

THREE BOMBS HIT MINIBUS IN AFGHANISTAN

At least nine people were killed Wednesday when three bombs went off in minibuses in Mazar-i-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan. Asif Waziri, a spokesman for the Balkh provincial police, told AFP that the bombs were put on three minibuses in different parts of the city. He also said that 15 other people were hurt. - May 25, [The Daily Star](#)

SECURITY SITUATION IN MYANMAR CAUSING DELAY IN ROHINGYA REPATRIATION: RABAB FATIMA

Precarious security in Myanmar delays Rohingya repatriation, said Bangladesh's UN ambassador, Rabab Fatima. "We remain worried that the situation in Myanmar remains perilous for civilians, notably ethnic and religious minorities like the Rohingyas," she said at an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict Thursday (May 26, 2022). In 2017, 750,000 Rohingyas escaped Myanmar for Bangladesh. No Rohingyas were repatriated despite repeated efforts because they fear security dangers in Rakhine. Myanmar's military takeover has exacerbated tensions between the military and citizens. "We remain committed to all measures to increase civilian protection," Rabab Fatima added. She voiced worry that protection of people remains a critical challenge in the context of continuous hostilities, persistent humanitarian crises, and escalating forced displacement.



"Ambassador Fatima discussed Bangladesh's commitment to civilian protection and the role of its peacekeepers. Nearly 7,000 troops from Bangladesh are operating in some of the most arduous operations, providing security at civilian areas, maintaining unfettered humanitarian assistance, and supporting health and social services, community participation, and women's and youth's empowerment. Misinformation and disinformation are fueling attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel. The envoy advised that the UN create effective communications strategies to counteract this phenomena and equip peacekeeping forces with enough resources to safeguard people. Ambassador Fatima appealed for all conflict sides to comply with international humanitarian law and punish abusers accountable. "Targeting civilians, schools, hospitals, and humanitarians is unacceptable. These attacks must be probed "said. - May 27. [United News of Bangladesh](#)

BANGLADESH ELECTED IN ALL GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCAP



Bangladesh has been elected to the governing councils of all four regional institutions of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand. The four regional institutions are the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) which is situated in Makuhari, Japan; the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) in Incheon City, Korea, and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), in Beijing, China and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) in Tehran, Iran. According to a news statement from the Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok, Bangladesh is the only country other than India that has been elected to the governing councils of all four regional institutions of UNESCAP. All three locations hosted the election simultaneously: Bangkok's United Nations Conference Center; Suva's ESCAP Subregional Office for Pacific; and Beijing's UN Compound. In 2022-24, members are elected to serve. According to the press release, Bangladesh will be able to provide advice on these institutions' work plans, finances, and other administrative matters through its membership in their governing councils, and it will likely receive more attention in terms of capacity building, technology transfer, skill development in ICT, agriculture, statistics, science, and technology, and disaster management. - May 27, [The Daily Star](#)

JCC MEETING POSTPONED TO MID JUNE



According to India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, a meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission will take place in the middle of June to assess the broad sweep of bilateral relations, including connectivity, cross-border power trade, and business. However, Jaishankar failed to announce the new dates for the meeting, which was initially scheduled to take place on May 30 in New Delhi, according to our source there. At the JCC meeting, he added that Bangladesh's "indispensable position" in South and Southeast Asia's economic integration will be thoroughly reviewed. During his opening remarks at the NADI Asian Confluence River Conclave in Guwahati, Jaishankar stated, "We will be reviewing all these developments and more with my Bangladesh counterpart in mid-June." - May 28, [The Daily Star](#)

UN RIGHTS CHIEF CONCLUDE CHINA TRIP

At the completion of her first official visit to China in 17 years, UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet announced new areas of interaction between her office and the Chinese Government on rights problems and reviewed the various topics addressed during her six-day May tour. Ms. Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, detailed new prospects for discussion between her office and the Chinese authorities. These include an annual senior strategic meeting and a working group that will convene in Beijing, Geneva, and online. The working group will examine development, poverty alleviation, minority rights, business and human rights, counterterrorism, digital space and human rights, judicial and legal protection, and human rights, according to Bachelet. Ms. Bachelet met with government officials, civil society groups, academics, and community and religious leaders. She met with internet organizations about Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and other parts of China before the visit.

In Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur minority, Ms. Bachelet raised questions and concerns about counterterrorism and de-radicalization measures and their broad application. She encouraged the government to review all counterterrorism and deradicalization policies to ensure they comply with international human rights standards and are not applied arbitrarily and discriminatorily. Ms. Bachelet stressed the significance of maintaining the linguistic, religious, and cultural identity of Tibetans and allowing them to engage fully and freely in religious life decisions and discourse. Ms. Bachelet urged Hong Kong's government to cultivate civil society and academics' capacity. She called the National Security Law arrests of lawyers, activists, and journalists "very disturbing" and emphasized that Hong Kong will be assessed by the UN Human Rights Committee in July. "I heard those who asked me to report issues or cases with the authorities," she said. "I'll keep track of such issues and concerns" The rights director commended China's "tremendous achievements" in alleviating and eradicating extreme poverty 10 years early. Universal health care and practically universal unemployment insurance have helped defend the right to health and other social and economic rights, she said. Ms. Bachelet also praised legislation that advances women's rights and NGOs' work to advance LGBTI, disabled, and elderly rights. - May 28, [UN News](#)

RUSSIA MAKES WAY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID IN EXCHANGE OF LIFTING OF SANCTIONS



In exchange for some sanctions being lifted, Russia is ready to let ships carrying food out of Ukraine through a humanitarian corridor, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko told Interfax on Wednesday. Since Russia sent thousands of troops into Ukraine on February 24, the ports on the Black Sea have been closed, and more than 20 million tons of grain are stuck in silos in the country.

Nearly a third of the world's wheat comes from Russia and Ukraine, and the lack of grain exports from Ukraine ports is making the global food crisis worse. The country also sends out a lot of corn and sunflower oil.

The idea of setting up "safe corridors" for grain exports from Ukraine's ports has been talked about by the West. Any such corridors would need Russian approval. Rudenko was quoted as saying, "We have said many times that the food problem needs a comprehensive solution, including the lifting of sanctions that have been put on Russian exports and financial transactions." "And all ports where ships are docked must be cleared of mines by the Ukrainian side. Russia is ready to help the people who need it, and it does this every day." - May 25,

[Reuters](#)

WEST LACKS UNITY CLAIMS VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY



Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the West is still split on how much it will help Ukraine defend itself against Russia's months-long invasion. Mr. Zelensky said again in his second online video from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that his country needed more weapons to fight back against the Russian army. "Weapons are the key to Unity. My question is whether this unity actually exists. I just don't get it. When we are truly united, we would have a huge advantage over Russia, said Mr. Zelensky at a traditional "Ukraine Breakfast." "event that was not part of the WEF. Washington and European countries have sent billions of dollars' worth of arms to Ukraine to help the country's weaker forces fight off the better-armed Russian invaders. Kyiv has asked for more help, to join the military alliance NATO led by the U.S., and for a no-fly zone to be put over the country. At the start of the Davos summit on Monday, Mr. Zelensky called for more weapons and "maximum" sanctions against Russia, including a ban on oil and an end to all trade with the country. Mr. Zelensky said on Wednesday that Ukraine was thankful for the help from U.S. President Joe Biden, but he said that people closer to home were not as determined. - May 25, [The Hindu](#)

NORTH KOREA TESTS ICBM AFTER BIDEN ENDS ASIA TOUR

South Korea and Japan's governments say that North Korea has tested three missiles off its east coast. One of the missiles may have been an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The tests on Wednesday happened just hours after US President Joe Biden left the area after a five-day trip during which he promised to protect South Korea and Japan from North Korea's growing nuclear and missile arsenal. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) of South Korea said that the first missile was fired from the Sunan area of Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, at 6am local time (21:00 GMT) on Wednesday. The second one went up 37 minutes after the first, and the third one went up five minutes after that. The military said that the first of the three missiles was likely an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). It flew about 360 km (224 miles) and got as high as 540 km (336 miles). If confirmed, this will be North Korea's second test of an ICBM since Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un ended a self-imposed four-year ban on long-range missile tests in March. This suspension happened in the middle of a flurry of summits and diplomatic talks with the US, which eventually stalled. The military said the second projectile seems to have failed after getting to an altitude of 20km (12 miles), and the third, which may have been a short-range ballistic missile, flew about 760km (472 miles) and got as high as 60km (37 miles). | South Korea's President Yoon Suk-Yeol called a meeting of his National Security Council and called North Korea's recent launches "a serious provocation that threatens international peace." A statement from his office said that he also asked for "practical measures for the activation of extended deterrence and strengthening of the South Korea-US combined defense posture." - May 25, [Al Jazeera](#)

RUSSIAN FM CLAIMS THAT WEST HAVE DECLARED TOTAL WAR ON RUSSIA



As Russia continues its military campaign in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the West of committing a "total war" against Russia, its people, and its culture. "They have declared war on us and our entire nation. The ridiculousness of the Russian-cancellation culture has reached a new level of absurdity "Lavrov made the remarks during a meeting of the ministry. It was claimed by him that the West had restricted access to Russian writers, composers, and other artists. he said. "It's safe to say that this issue will be with us for some time." In Lavrov's words, Washington and its satellites are "doing everything they can to keep our country contained." - May 28, [The Daily Star](#)

ZELENSKY SEEKS FOR MORE WEAPONS AND CUTTING OFF TRADE WITH RUSSIA FROM OTHERS

Monday, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine, used the Davos summit to ask for more weapons for his country and "maximum" sanctions against Russia. Zelensky told the World Economic Forum through a video link that when Russia invaded Ukraine in February, tens of thousands of lives could have been saved if Kyiv had gotten "100% of our needs at once." "This is why Ukraine needs all the weapons we ask for, not just the ones that have been given," Zelensky said that Russia should have an oil embargo, be punished for all of its banks, and be shunned in the IT industry. He also said that all foreign companies should leave the country. He told the group of political and business leaders from around the world, "There should be no trade with Russia." "I think there aren't any sanctions like that against Russia yet, but there should be." - May 24, [Times of India](#)

UNSC TO VOTE ON STRICTER SANCTIONS ON NORTH KOREA

Diplomats say the UN Security Council will vote Thursday on a resolution to toughen sanctions on North Korea after it shot an intercontinental ballistic missile. The US, which has the rotating Security Council president in May, has arranged the vote for late afternoon. A senior US official said the resolution would focus on limiting oil imports, but diplomats think Russia and China could veto it. The official noted that 2017 Security Council Resolution 2397 called for additional repercussions for another ICBM launch. "The resolution required that. This happened, so we're taking action "anonymous official said. The official declined to comment on whether Russia and China would veto the text but said, "We think this resolution will have substantial support because it's important to us and to our friends Japan and South Korea." According to an anonymous official, Beijing might adopt further sanctions over nuclear tests but not missile launches. - May 26, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

BANGLADESH ATTENDS TWO-DAY NADI CONCLAVE IN GUWAHATI

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said Monday he asked India how they manage their oil purchases from Russia, saying that the energy issue has become a challenge for Bangladesh. "We're energy-dependent (import). Russia provided grains and energy. It's an issue. We're scared (energy crisis). India's suggestions were solicited. It's a nice chat "He told reporters, fearing sanctions. Momen and S Jaishankar attended the NADI Conclave in Guwahati on May 28-29.



The Indian government defended its decision to acquire Russian oil, saying it buys less in a month than Europe does in an afternoon. India's oil purchases from Russia have risen since last year, despite efforts to distance itself from Moscow over Ukraine. India has increased oil imports from Russia at discounted prices as global energy prices rise. Momen replied, "They keep bossing us, and you (journalists) support them. They have daily challenges. Development partners was the term. They don't pay but offer guidance "• Momen also stated they did several things to inhibit progress and cause instability. "No good." Bangladesh, a peace-loving country, welcomes world stability, the foreign minister said. "We are tremendously interdependent," he added, adding that Bangladesh will be affected if the USA and Europe experience upheaval. If the Middle East is unstable, Bangladesh's remittances will suffer. "We avoid trouble. Want world peace "Momen said affluent countries will be affected and it's good for all to finish the war soon. The foreign minister said he and Jaishankar discussed strengthening regional bodies to promote stability and security. Bangladesh doesn't want multilateralism to weaken, he said. "We're multilateralists." - May 30, [The Financial Express](#)

BANGLADESH-INDIA PRIOTITIZES CONNECTIVITY IN NADI CONCLAVE

Bangladesh and India want to connect South and Southeast Asia with water, rail, and road projects, as well as energy, tourism, and telecommunication networks. Regional integration and cooperation are more vital than ever given climate change and post-Covid supply chain issues. Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made the statements at the opening of a two-day international river conference in Assam's Guwahati yesterday. Asian Confluence, a Shillong-based think tank, organized the NADI (Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence) conference alongside the Union External Affairs Ministry, Assam Act East Policy Affairs Department, and North Eastern Council. Momen said much of the two countries' river connectivity had been interrupted but is being restored. Bangladesh and India have reestablished river, road, and railway networks connecting India to Northeastern India. Bangladesh, located between South and Southeast Asia, wants to simplify trade with Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan. River pathways are cost-effective and eco-friendly. Momen said India and Bangladesh face similar natural calamities, noting recent flash floods in Assam and Sylhet that destroyed infrastructure and agriculture. "We can have a powerful regional weather forecasting system," Momen remarked. Bangladesh and India share 54 transboundary rivers, and a joint approach to controlling them can aid both countries. Momen also spoke about signing the Teesta Water-sharing Agreement, which was left hanging owing to Mamata Banerjee's last-minute objection. Dhaka and Delhi share six tiny rivers. Jaishankar said a better integrated India and Southeast will reshape the regional economy. He also mentioned the restoration of six historical rail ties with Bangladesh, overland goods transportation using 28 Land Customs Stations, and the Maitree Bridge across the Feni River that connects Bangladesh and Tripura. Jaishankar noted that agreements on the transportation of commodities from Indian ports through the Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh are synergizing the convoluted cross-border topography. What happens when the Northeast, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar merge? Each needs additional access, opportunities, resources, and markets. These efforts will draw ASEAN closer to us. "We can transcend geography and rewrite history if we get the policy and economics correct." - May 29, [The Daily Star](#)

INDIA TO EXPORT WHEAT TO BANGLADESH AMID RESTRICTIONS

One million tonnes of wheat is expected to be exported from India to Bangladesh, despite export limitations. According to a story in The Economic Times, when India imposed the restrictions on May 13 it made it plain that this would not impair its commitment to meeting the requirements of neighboring and vulnerable countries. According to a wheat exporter who requested anonymity, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has requested approval for the export of more than a million tonnes in the first phase against legitimate letters of credit, of which roughly 5-6 lakh tonnes are expected to be transferred to Bangladesh. More than 2 million tons of wheat will be transported by road, according to trade sources. According to The Economic Times, which cited a wheat exporter in Kolkata, Bangladeshi traders are hesitant to purchase Indian wheat due to a lack of storage space. A strong heatwave in March-April lowered domestic production, driving up food inflation, and forcing India to suspend wheat exports on May 13. - May 28, [The Daily Star](#)

BANGLADESH UNWILLING TO TAKE OIL AND WHEAT FROM RUSSIA DUE TO FEAR OF SANCTIONS

Because of possible penalties, Bangladesh's foreign minister, AK Abdul Momen, has stated that his country does not purchase oil from Russia. "An effort is underway in India to find a solution to the problem of energy. Bangladesh was promised energy as well as wheat by Russia. We, on the other hand, are unable to do so for fear of sanctions "Momen made the comment. After returning from the river meeting in Assam, India, Momen told reporters at the Bangladeshi foreign ministry in Dhaka today (May 30, 2022) that he felt thus way. During the international river conference in Guwahati, which brought together ministers and officials from South and Southeast Asian countries, he met with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. As the globe was still reeling from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on economies, health systems, and supply networks, a new conflict erupted with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which continues to this day, according to him. - May 30, [The Daily Star](#)

UN ENVOY URGES INDIA AND OTHER NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN SOLVING THE ROHINGYA CRISIS



By urging neighboring nations to take care of the Rohingya refugees they are hosting, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has urged Bangladesh's neighboring countries not to put an additional strain on the country. When asked about illegal entrants into Bangladesh from Asean countries, China, Japan, and South Korea, Grandi responded with a call for the region's countries, as well as China, Japan, and South Korea, to use their clout to prevent the Rohingyas from fleeing to Bangladesh. Grandi made the call in response to a journalist's question on illegal entrants into Bangladesh from Myanmar. Since taking in over one million Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh has already written to India to express its concerns. Grandi asserted that the number of Rohingyas residing outside of Bangladesh is insignificant in comparison. It is therefore necessary to remove the burden from Bangladesh. - May 26, [The Daily Star](#)

BANGLADESH SEEKING MORE INVESTMENT FROM THE SWISS

Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam has urged Switzerland to invest more in Bangladesh. On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on May 23, 2022, he made the call to State Secretary of Switzerland Livia Leu. According to a statement from Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Shahriar assured the Swiss State Secretary that Bangladesh offers one of the world's easiest investment prospects. Also, under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's enlightened guidance, Bangladesh has seen remarkable progress in terms of socioeconomic development. Bangladesh's exceptional success in pandemic response and recovery was highlighted as he described many successful steps taken by Bangladesh to combat the Covid-19 epidemic. He pleaded for Switzerland's ongoing assistance in finding an early and long-term solution to the Rohingya situation. " - May 25, [The Asahi Shimbun](#)

16 ROHINGYA DIE IN A STORM TRYING TO FLEE OPRRESSION IN MYANMAR

At least 16 Rohingya people from Myanmar died Tuesday when a storm flipped over the boat they were on to seek refuge in another country. Officials and a member of the recovery team said the boat capsized as the storm hit. The accident happened off Myanmar's southwestern coast on Saturday. Four people are still missing, and 35 people were able to get out of the boat. In a statement, UNHCR, the U.N. agency for refugees, said it was shocked and saddened by the accident and that at least 17 Rohingya, including children, had died. The boat left the state of Rakhine in Myanmar's west on Thursday. Two days later, it sank off the coast of Myanmar's southwestern Ayeyarwaddy Region because of bad weather. The Rohingya, who are a Muslim minority, have been mistreated in Myanmar for a long time. Since an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group in Rakhine State in August 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh to get away from Myanmar's brutal counterinsurgency campaign. Myanmar's government has denied that security forces burned down thousands of homes and raped and killed a large number of people, but the U.S. government recently called what Myanmar's military did genocide. | There are still more than 100,000 Rohingya in Myanmar, living in squalid refugee camps. There are also many Rohingya in Bangladesh, living in crowded refugee camps. Rohingya people from camps in both countries take dangerous trips to Malaysia and Indonesia, which are mostly Muslim, to find better jobs. "From January to May 2022, about 630 Rohingya tried to cross the Bay of Bengal by sea," the UNHCR said in a statement. Women and children made up 60% of those who tried to escape. The statement went on to say, "The risk of abuse by smugglers and the danger of the sea journey itself are both made worse by long trips when there is no safe place to get off the boat." - May 25, [The Asahi Shimbun](#)

IMRAN KHAN RALLIES PROTEST MARCH ON CAPITAL

On Wednesday, the major roads leading to Pakistan's capital city, Islamabad, were shut down so that a protest march led by former Prime Minister Imran Khan wouldn't be able to get there. There were fights between the police and the protesters. Khan said from the top of a truck, "Nothing can stop us. We will break through all the barriers and reach... Islamabad." He had just arrived in a helicopter to meet his supporters about 60 miles (100 km) from the capital. Khan said that the rally on Wednesday would be huge and wouldn't end until the government agreed to new elections this year. At the moment, parliamentary elections are set for 2023. As crowds of Khan's supporters fought with police, the cities of Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, and Peshawar were closed off. Overnight, shipping containers were put in the way of the main road into Islamabad, and other roads into the capital were also blocked in the same way. Islamabad police put out a traffic plan that showed how the city would be completely blocked off while there was a lot of security around. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that no one should be able to blockade the capital and make his own rules. The protesters were going to drive and take a bus to the city limits of the capital, where they would then march on foot. - May 25, [DW](#)

SRI LANKA PM TAKES OVER AS FINANCE MINISTER

The president's office said that Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will also take over as finance minister. He will lead talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the crisis-stricken country looks for a bailout. "This morning, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa swore in Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe as Minister of Finance, Economic Stability, and National Policies," the president's office said in a statement. Wickremesinghe talked about his immediate plans for the economy in an interview with Reuters on Tuesday. He said that he would present an interim budget within six weeks that would cut government spending "to the bone" and put the money into a two-year relief program. The World Bank said on Tuesday that it does not plan to give Sri Lanka any new money until a good economic policy framework is in place. - May 25 [Al Jazeera](#)

UN RIGHTS CHIEF DEFEND CHINA TRIP

As Russia continues its military campaign in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the West of committing a "total war" against Russia, its people, and its culture. "They have declared war on us and our entire nation. The ridiculousness of the Russian-cancellation culture has reached a new level of absurdity "Lavrov made the remarks during a meeting of the ministry. It was claimed by him that the West had restricted access to Russian writers, composers, and other artists. he said. "It's safe to say that this issue will be with us for some time." In Lavrov's words, Washington and its satellites are "doing everything they can to keep our country contained." - May 29, [The Daily Star](#)

CHINA, RUSSIA VETO UNSC RESOLUTION TO PUNISH NORTH KOREA

China and Russia vetoed a US-led UN proposal to toughen sanctions on North Korea over missile launches, exposing divides Western envoys believe Pyongyang may exploit. As punishment for Wednesday's intercontinental ballistic missile launch, the U.S. proposed reducing North Korea's lawful oil imports. The 13 other Security Council members supported the resolution, but several US allies wondered if Washington should have gone through with the vote given Beijing and Moscow's objections. China, North Korea's closest ally, and Russia, whose relations with the West have plunged over Ukraine, indicated they would have preferred a non-binding declaration over a new resolution with teeth against Pyongyang. U.S "Shouldn't emphasize sanctions alone. Promote a political solution" Zhang Jun, China's UN ambassador. He warned that sanctions will entail a "escalation" and humanitarian ramifications for North Korea, which recently revealed a Covid outbreak. Zhang claimed the US wanted the resolution to fail to "spread the fires of war" to push China. Vassily Nebenzia accused the US of rejecting North Korea's calls to stop "hostile activity." "Our American and Western counterparts seem blocked. They only respond to crises with new sanctions "saying The Biden administration has declared it will talk to North Korea without preconditions.

- May 27, [France 24](#)

POLICE TEAR GAS STUDENTS IN FRESH PROTESTS

Thousands of students tried to attack the home of Sri Lanka's president on Sunday after the administration extended an olive branch to protesters demanding his resignation. Police used tear gas to disperse them. Tear gas and water cannons were used by anti-riot squads to dismantle yellow iron barriers blocking a road leading to the official mansion of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo. Thousands of people rallied outside Rajapaksa's office on the seaside for the 51st day in a row, calling for his resignation in the wake of the country's greatest economic crisis since independence. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka's prime leader, appeared on national television Sunday night to offer a wider voice to the country's young demonstrators. - May 26, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

GUNMAN KILLS 19 IN USA

At least 19 young children and two adults were killed by a teenager with a gun at an elementary school in Texas on Tuesday. This made President Joe Biden very angry, and he slammed the US gun lobby and promised to stop the cycle of mass shootings in the country. The attack in Uvalde, a small town about an hour from the border with Mexico, was the deadliest school shooting in the US in years. It was also the latest in a string of bloody gun violence across the country.



Biden's voice was full of emotion as he said, "It's time to turn this pain into action for every parent and every person in this country." He said, "It's time to let those who stop, delay, or block commonsense gun laws know that we will not forget."

"When in the name of God are we as a country going to stand up to the gun lobby? When in the name of God will we do what we all know we need to do?" In an earlier news conference, Texas Governor Greg Abbott named the suspect as Salvador Ramos, an 18-year-old US citizen who lives in the area. Abbott said, "He shot and killed in a terrible and incomprehensible way." Officials from the Texas Department of Public Safety told CNN that the gunman is thought to have shot his grandmother before going to Robb Elementary School around noon, where he left his car and went inside with a handgun, a rifle, and body armor. Officials said that the gunman was killed by officers who came to help. They also said that two adults also died in the attack. Small groups of kids, ages seven to ten, were seen on video weaving through parked cars and yellow buses as they ran away from the school. Some of the kids were holding hands as they ran. - May 25, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

QUAD OPPOSES 'CHANGE BY FORCE' AMID THE CHINA CRISIS

On Tuesday, the leaders of Japan, Australia, the U.S., and India said they are against any attempts to "change the status quo by force," especially in the Indo-Pacific. The statement was made after a summit meeting of the four members of the so-called Quad alliance.



It comes at a time when the international community is putting pressure on Moscow for invading Ukraine and when worries are growing that Beijing might try to take self-ruled Taiwan by force. "Russia's invasion of Ukraine is shaking the foundations of the international order," Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said. "We confirmed that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force will never be tolerated anywhere, but especially in the Indo-Pacific region." US President Joe Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Kishida all went to the meeting. In a joint statement, the leaders talked about how China is accused of "militarizing disputed features, using coast guard vessels and maritime militia in dangerous ways, and trying to stop other countries from using offshore resources." All of these are things that China is accused of doing in the region. But they didn't say anything directly bad about either China or Russia. India is the only member of the Quad that has kept quiet about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. After their meeting in Tokyo, the Quad countries also agreed on a new plan to keep an eye on the seas.

- May 25, [The Financial Express](#)

TURKEY WILL NOT AWAIT US PERMISSION FOR SYRIAN OFFENSIVE

Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared Sunday that Turkey will start a military operation in Syria without US "permission." Erdogan told journalists after returning from Azerbaijan, "One can't fight terrorism waiting for permission." "What if the US doesn't battle terrorism?" He said, "We'll manage." Erdogan threatens to prevent Finland and Sweden's NATO membership over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Erdogan claims the Nordic governments assist Kurdish PKK militants; they've started negotiations with Ankara to assuage its fears. The president claimed Turkey will soon undertake a fresh military operation into northern Syria to build a 30-kilometer "security zone" along the border. The US warned Turkey not to conduct a new operation, warning it would endanger US forces. Turkey has launched three offensives in Syria since 2016 to crush Syrian Kurdish militants that helped combat ISIS. Ankara says these fighters are PKK-allied. Since 1984, Ankara and its Western allies have blacklisted the PKK as a terrorist organization. Erdogan said Wednesday's Turkish, Swedish, and Finnish discussions in Ankara disappointed. He accused the two Nordic countries of "betting terrorism," saying Sweden is neither "sincere" nor "honest." - May 30, [The Defense Post](#)

BIDEN CALLS FOR STRICTER GUN LAWS

On Tuesday, after a gunman killed 18 young children at an elementary school in Texas, US President Joe Biden told Americans to stand up to the country's powerful pro-gun lobby. In a speech from the White House, he asked, "When, in the name of God, are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?" "It's time for every parent and every person in this country to do something about this pain. Every elected official in this country needs to know that it's time to act." - May 25, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha](#)

G7 TO STOP FUNDING OF FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT OVERSEAS

Financing for overseas fossil fuel development will be stopped by the world's largest economies by year's end. This would likely choke off some investment in "carbon bombs," which are jeopardizing efforts to fulfill global climate targets. Agreement could transfer \$33bn (£26bn) annually from fossil fuels to sustainable energy, according to projections by analysts. At a conference in Berlin on Friday, the G7 energy and environment ministers resolved to stop subsidizing oil, gas, and coal projects in other nations. Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Italy, France, and this year's host country, Germany, are all members of the group. In light of the conflict in Ukraine and the high cost of fossil fuels, British Cop26 President Alok Sharma said the commitment demonstrated that the shift to clean energy was more critical than ever. I cannot stress the importance of climate and environmental security to our nation's long-term energy and national security." It is necessary to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as part of a controlled transition to address both the global energy crisis and the ongoing climate problem. An Oil Change International campaign co-manager said, "The G7 deciding to cease public financing for fossil fuels and move it to sustainable energy is a tremendous victory. [Amidst the Ukraine conflict], this is a timely reaffirmation [of the need of prioritizing public funding for clean-energy projects]. "These pledges must now be put into action immediately." - May 30, [The Guardian](#)

IRAN NUCLEAR STOCKPILE 18 TIMES OVER THE LIMIT, CLAIMS IAEA

Iranian stockpiles of enriched uranium have grown to more than 18 times the limit set by Tehran's nuclear deal with international powers, the UN nuclear watchdog reported Monday. In its latest assessment on Iran's nuclear program, the International Atomic Energy Agency assessed that Iran's total enriched stockpile was 3,809.3 kg as of May 15, 2022. Uranium equivalents were set at 202.8 kilograms (660 pounds) for the 2015 deal's 300 kilogram (660 pound) maximum. Iranian nuclear enrichment is continuing at levels higher than the 3.67 percent allowed in the agreement, according to a report. There have been increases in both the stockpiles of low- and high-enrichment uranium, with the low-enrichment stockpile up by 56.3 kilograms since the last report in March, and the high-enrichment stockpile up by 9.9 kilograms. A nuclear weapon requires an enrichment level of roughly 90%. Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is non-proliferation-related. - May 30, [France 24](#)

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