

EU eyes deeper India ties amid tariff concerns

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Commission set out plans yesterday to deepen cooperation with India in fields such as defence, technology and trade despite tensions over New Delhi's closer ties to Moscow.

The European Union and India are in the final stages of negotiating a free trade agreement both sides aim to conclude by the end of the year.

Negotiations, relaunched in 2022, have gained pace since the re-election of US President Donald Trump. Faced with Trump's tariffs, both sides have sought accelerated efforts to foster new alliances.

For Brussels, that means planned trade agreements with Mexico, South American bloc Mercosur, India and Indonesia. India sees promise in the European Union, but also in China and Russia.

India has increased purchases of Russian oil since Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In the past month, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit in China, and its troops joined a Russian-led military exercise.

On Friday, US officials called on G7 and EU states to impose tariffs on China and India over Russian oil purchases.

In a document released on Wednesday setting out its vision, the Commission said the EU would further engage with India on curtailing Russia's military and preventing circumvention of EU sanctions.

Despite the tensions, the European Commission views India as a fellow upholder of the rules-based multilateral order and hopes to benefit from its expected rise to become the world's third-largest economy in 2030.

The EU envisages the two sides negotiating agreements on investment protection and boosting air transport, collaborating on securing supply chains, on green hydrogen, on decarbonisation of heavy industry and on research and innovation.

They could also agree a defence and security partnership, as the EU already has with Japan and South Korea, and cooperate in projects in third countries, particularly in Africa and South Asia.

Fakhrul, Taher to accompany Yunus

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September 30. The event, proposed by Yunus last year, follows Bangladesh's "Partners' Dialogue" in Cox's Bazar.

"This unprecedented high-level meeting, together with UN Secretary-General António Guterres' visit to Bangladesh earlier this year, demonstrates that despite multiple global crises, the Rohingya issue remains firmly on the international agenda," Touhid said.

The chief adviser will also attend the 30th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth on September 25, as well as discussions on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

His UNGA speech is also expected to address peacekeeping, climate change and climate justice, the Sustainable Development Goals, illicit financial flows, migration and migrant rights, technology transfer in the age of AI, and a call for a ceasefire and lasting peace in the Palestinian Territory, Touhid added.

Need religion teachers in primary

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Yunus is also expected to attend receptions hosted by Guterres and US President Donald Trump, and hold bilateral meetings with world leaders.

The foreign affairs adviser will represent Bangladesh in multilateral forums, including meetings of the Commonwealth, G7 and China, OIC, BIMSTEC, CICA, and the LDCs.

Touhid said the UNGA offers Bangladesh a vital platform to present its reform process, democratic transition, and national priorities.

The chief adviser

will return to Dhaka on October 2.

The UNGA general

debate runs from 23-27 and September 29 under the theme "Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development and Human Rights."

Senior officials, including Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam, Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam, and Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, attended the briefing.

it will be possible to develop a quality religious education system in primary education," he added.

Mujibur argued that the appointment of religion teachers would instill morality, virtues, and values in students.

Meanwhile, rights group AIN O Salish Kendra (ASK) strongly criticised Jamaat's demand, calling it "misleading, motivated, and harmful to Bangladesh's cultural rights".

ASK said the call to scrap music teacher recruitment was a "deliberate attempt to spread division and hatred in society," warning that such moves risked creating

a one-sided society with long-term consequences undermining national unity and cultural foundations.

Citing the constitution, the rights body stressed that every citizen has the right to practise culture and participate in art and literature.

In its statement, ASK argued that music education is not merely a source of recreation but a means to foster mental development, moral values, creativity, and tolerance.

It added that cultural education should complement, not replace, religious education in schools.

Protesters besiege election office

FROM PAGE 2

The EC on September 4 issued a gazette notification redrawing boundaries of 46 constituencies across the country. As per the new gazette, the number of constituencies in Bagerhat has been reduced to three from four. People in Bagerhat have been staging demonstrations since then demanding reinstatement of the district's previous four constituencies.

Their demonstrations include blockades, sit-ins, and

processions. Meanwhile in Faridpur, police have filed a case accusing former lawmaker Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury in connection with Monday's violence centring constituency boundary demarcation.

Bhanga Police Station's Sub Inspector Md Azaduzzaman filed the case on Tuesday night against 29 named and many unnamed people.

A former independent lawmaker of Faridpur 4,

Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, popularly known as Nixon Chowdhury, was made the prime accused in the case, said the district's Additional Superintendent of Police Shamsul Azam.

As per the EC's new gazette, the Algi and Hamirdui unions under Bhanga upazila were transferred from Faridpur-4 to Faridpur-2 constituency. Residents of Bhanga upazila have been demonstrating since the issuance of the gazette, protesting the transfer.



US President Donald Trump and Britain's King Charles inspect the Guard of Honour as they attend a welcome ceremony during Trump's state visit, at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, Britain, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump begins state visit to UK amid pomp and protests

REUTERS, Windsor

King Charles greeted Donald Trump yesterday as the US president's historic second state visit to Britain began with unprecedent pomp, intense security, technology investments and planned protests.

Trump and his wife Melania arrived at Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world and family home to British monarchs for almost 1,000 years, where the royal red carpet treatment includes a carriage procession, gun salutes, a military flypast and lavish banquet.

Britain says it will be the largest military ceremonial welcome for a state visit in living memory.

Trump, an overt royal fan, has made little secret of his delight at being not just the first US leader, but the first elected

politician to be invited by a British monarch for two visits.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer is hoping to use that sentiment to Britain's advantage as his government seeks to cement the two nations' "special relationship", deepen economic ties, secure billions of dollars of investment, discuss tariffs and press the US president on Ukraine and Israel.

The visit has already delivered a new technology pact between the two countries with companies from Microsoft to Nvidia, Google and OpenAI pledging \$1 billion pounds (\$42 billion) in British investments over the next few years, in AI, quantum computing and civil nuclear energy.

Starmer also wants further progress on tariffs.

"Basically, I'm there also on trade. They want to see if they can refine the trade deal a little bit," Trump said when he left the White House for Britain on Tuesday.

But while Starmer is banking on the unrivalled royal allure helping cajole the anglophile president, many pitfalls for British prime minister remain.

Polls show Trump is widely unpopular in Britain and Starmer, faced with plummeting poll ratings of his own and economic woes, will need to show that playing his royal trump card will reap benefits. Awkward questions about late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein could also come to the fore.

Amid heavy security, protesters pulled off a stunt in Windsor on Tuesday. Police said four people were arrested for malicious communications after images of Trump alongside Epstein were projected onto one of Windsor Castle's towers. Large protests are also expected in London yesterday.

Maoist rebels in India 'offer to give up armed struggle'

AFP, Raipur

Maoist rebels in India are suspending their armed struggle and are ready for talks, they said in a statement, though authorities yesterday said they were still verifying its authenticity.

New Delhi has launched an all-out offensive to crush the decades-long conflict, vowing to wipe out the Maoist rebellion by March 2026, with recent fighting concentrated in the battleground state of Chhattisgarh.

The rebels have offered to engage in talks before, including in February when they called for a ceasefire – an offer rejected by authorities.

In a statement issued Tuesday to reporters via intermediaries who have handled Maoist proclamations before – the Communist Party of India (Maoist) said it would start talks.

"We are ready to start dialogue", the letter read, adding they had decided "to suspend armed struggle".

The Maoist statement said they had shifted their position due to the "changed world order and national situation, and because of the continuous appeals" from New Delhi.

East Timor axes plan to buy SUVs for MPs

AFP, Dili

East Timor's parliament has bowed to public pressure and dropped a plan to buy SUVs for lawmakers in one of southeast Asia's poorest nations, but sceptical protesters returned to the streets yesterday.

Student-led demonstrations against the multi-million dollar purchase drew thousands this week in the capital Dili, with demonstrators and police clashing two days in a row.

Unapprised by the last-minute reversal, around 2,000 demonstrators gathered near the parliament building in Dili for a third straight day yesterday, according to an AFP journalist.

The controversy stemmed from a \$4.2 million budget item, approved last year, to purchase Toyota Prado SUVs for each of the country's 65 members of parliament.

The tender was due to be completed in September, according to an official parliament document.

The plan triggered widespread anger in a nation where over 40 percent of the population lives in poverty, according to the World Bank.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD E/M Division-6, Dhaka

Date: 16/09/2025

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Memo no: 5-16/715

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

Sl No.	Brief Description of the work	Tender ID	Publishing Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1.	Internal electrical repair work of the wood workshops machines at the Public Works E/M Wood Workshop Sub-Division, Section-6, Mirpur.	1153009	16-Sep-2025	30-Sep-2025

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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(Mohammad Toriqul Alam)
Executive Engineer
PWD E/M Division-6, Dhaka

"দেশপ্রেমের শপথ নিম্নোন্মতিকে বিদ্যমান" Karpnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)
137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholoshahar, Chattogram

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that the following tender has been published through e-GP Portal:

Sl.	Tender ID	Description of goods	Tender publication date & time	Tender document last selling date & time	Last date & time for tender security submission	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
01.	1147842	Procurement of IP Camera & Related Accessories with Installation & Commissioning for 8 Nos. of HP DRs at KGDCI.	18.09.2025 10:00	08.10.2025 16:00	09.10.2025 14:00	09.10.2025 15:00	09.10.2025 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The interested person/firms/supplier may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get details of the tender. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

16.09.2025

Md. Faruque Hossain
Deputy General Manager
Purchase Department

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
District Primary Education Office
Chattogram
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মাঝক নং: ১৫.০৯.২০২৫ সঠি।

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
2	Implementing Agency	District Primary Education Office
3	Project/ Program name	PEDP 4 Project
4	e-Tender IDs	1148690
5	Description of works	Furniture supply under PEDP 4 sub component Named "Furniture for school" at selected 130 schools under 21 upazilas in Chattogram district. FY 2025-26.
6	Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	S M Abdur Rahman District Primary Education Officer, District Primary Education Office, Chattogram
7	This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off-line/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/ Firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

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