



GOVT'S 100 DAYS IN FOREIGN POLICY

BNP walks tightrope amid global shocks

PORIMOL PALMA

In its first 100 days in office, the BNP government has found itself navigating a turbulent global landscape, shaped by the US Israel war on Iran and geopolitical rivalry among major powers, which is causing energy insecurity and mounting economic pressure at home.

The government entered office with expectation that it would carry out drastic reforms, but external crises forced it into immediate diplomatic firefighting.

The administration surprised many by appointing Khalilur Rahman, national security adviser under the Yunus-led interim administration, as technocrat foreign minister.

It had little time to articulate its "Bangladesh First" foreign policy doctrine, while Khailur Rahman embarked on intensive overseas travel linked to campaign for the presidency of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

WAR
The US-Israel war on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory moves in the Gulf left the economy highly vulnerable as Bangladesh's heavily depends on imported fuel, LNG and fertilizer.

"The government's immediate focus shifted toward securing alternative supply chains and stabilising fuel imports," said Parvez Karim Abbasi, assistant professor of Economics at East West University



Families and friends looking to celebrate the Eid holidays by the ocean flock to the sandy shores of Patenga Sea Beach in Chattogram. The popular tourist destination buzzed with visitors yesterday, turning the coastline into a lively hub of festivity and leisure.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

AT A GLANCE

- War disrupts fuel imports, forcing Dhaka to make emergency supply deals
- Foreign minister criss-crosses capitals while UNGA bid dominates
- Washington ties recalibrated as BNP honours Boeing and gas deals, but RTA stirs controversy
- Dhaka's balancing act with Teesta management project raises fears of upstream diversion
- Ties with India being tested as warm overtures clash with border rhetoric

INDIA CRACKDOWN

Migrants try to flee to Bangladesh

AFP, India

Hasina Bibi clutched her hungry four-year-old daughter as she waited at an India-Bangladesh border post, trying to leave as fears grow of an Indian crackdown on undocumented migrants.

She is among the hundreds of Bangladeshis who have gathered over two days at Hakimpur in India's West Bengal state, police said, hoping to cross back as authorities tighten enforcement under a new state government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party won power in West Bengal earlier this month promising to "detect, delete and deport" illegal migrants.

The rush underscores growing anxiety among migrant communities — many of whom lack proper documentation — with rights groups warning of forced expulsions and limited legal protections.

Many are in limbo, caught between Indian pressure to leave and Bangladesh's refusal to accept them without formal proof of citizenship.

Many have waded across a river to return in desperation, although the scale of the exodus remains unclear.

Last week, West Bengal authorities

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Still no deal finalised with US to end war

Says Iran as Trump meets top leaders at Situation Room

Tehran rebuffs Trump claim on nuclear, Hormuz issues

JD Vance says US, Iran made 'a lot of progress' towards deal

Iran says it only trust actions, not words

AFP, Washington

Iran's foreign ministry yesterday said that there was still "no final agreement" with the United States to end the Middle East war, after US President Donald Trump said he was making his decision on a potential deal.

"Regarding the understanding, as I said while speaking to you, exchanges of messages are continuing, but no final agreement has been reached yet," ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told state media.

Iran's top negotiator had said earlier Tehran would only trust Washington's actions, not its words, after US Vice President JD Vance said progress had been made on a deal to extend a ceasefire and provide a framework for peace talks.

US sources told AFP the deal was just waiting on Trump's sign-off following weeks of halting negotiations to end a conflict that had engulfed the Middle East and shaken the global economy.

"I will be meeting now, in the Situation Room, to make a

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Zia's 45th death anniv today

BNP chalks out 8-day event

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP will observe the 45th death anniversary of its founder and former president Ziaur Rahman today.

The party and its associate bodies have chalked out an eight-day programme to observe the death anniversary nationwide with due respect. The programmes, which began on May 25, will continue until June 1.

Ziaur Rahman, who founded the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 1978, was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chattogram Circuit House on May 30, 1981.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office yesterday morning, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said their party

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and executive director of the Centre for Governance Studies.

Despite taking on short-term loans, the government managed the initial fuel crisis, he said.

At the same time, GULF instability renewed concerns over the safety of millions of Bangladeshi migrant workers, many of whom reported job losses.

Amena Mohsin, former professor of International Relations at Dhaka University, said the crisis exposed the absence of a robust long-term strategy for migrant protection during geopolitical shocks.

She said Bangladesh, despite having close ties with Iran, avoided taking a strong position during the conflict and instead limited itself to expressions of concern.

TIES WITH WASHINGTON

Bangladesh-US relations had deteriorated during the final years of the Awami League government before improving under the interim administration.

The BNP government moved to maintain that trajectory by honouring agreements signed by the interim government, including the Reciprocal Trade Agreement (RTA), purchase of 14 Boeing aircraft, and a major gas deal.

The RTA, however, came under criticism, particularly over provisions concerning trade with economies like that of China and Russia.

Amena Mohsin described the agreement as controversial because it potentially places Bangladesh in a "subservient position". She argued the treaty should be debated in parliament and reviewed.

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PM unhappy over uncleared Eid waste

Withdraws 2 city officials; orders cleanup in 48hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday expressed dissatisfaction after seeing sacrificial animal waste left uncleared in several areas in Dhaka during a surprise inspection while driving around the capital.

The PM found animal waste and old garbage on roads in Hatirpool, Elephant Road, Green Road, Farmgate and Karwan Bazar, and ordered action against two regional executive officers of the two city corporations for negligence of duty.

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PHOTO: MASUK HRIDDOY

Traders and buyers crowd Awliya Bazar in Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar upazila, a major wholesale lychee market, shortly after dawn. The market operates for barely two hours each morning during the peak season, yet witnesses brisk trading as thousands of bunches of lychees change hands. Traders claim fruit worth around Tk 50 lakh is sold daily during the three-week season. The photo was taken recently.

Animal waste, stench still linger on Dhaka streets

DIPAN NANDY

On Eid day, State Minister for LGRD Mir Shah Alam said all sacrificial waste across the capital would be removed by yesterday 2:00am.

At a press briefing held at 9:00pm on Thursday, officials of both the Dhaka South and Dhaka North city corporations also claimed the capital was on its way to becoming fully clean.

However, the situation on the ground told a different story. While the city's main roads appeared relatively clean, sacrificial waste was still found in many alleys and neighbourhood streets, even yesterday afternoon.

During visits to different parts of the capital yesterday morning, sacrificial animal waste was seen lying in many areas. In some places, garbage had piled up in heaps, while in others, animal remains were scattered around, emitting foul odours.

Areas under the Dhaka South City Corporation where waste was found included Noor Fatah Lane in Chawkbazar, Kazi Alauddin Road in Nazirabazar, Bangladesh Maath on Aga Sadeq Road, Bakshibazar City Corporation Market, Orphanage Road in Bakshibazar, the road beside Popular Medical College in Dhanmondi, Moneshwar Road in Hazaribagh, Gonokuti City Colony area, Bonolota Kitchen Market adjacent to BCB Gate 1, Dinanath Sen Road in Gendaria, Dayaganj intersection, and the road in front of the Anti-Corruption Commission building in Segunbagicha.

Under the Dhaka North City Corporation, sacrificial waste was visible in Pirerbagh on Rokeya Sarani, East and West Tejturibazar, in front of Senpara Parbata

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