



BANGLADESH'S POLITICAL CHARADE

ABSTRACT

As the scheduled elections approach, the pressure on the Interim Government mounts from the kingmakers (NCP), BNP, JI and Awami League leaders. The foreign powers look to secure their own selfish interests, and the public is disappointed in the Yunus government's policies. What lies ahead for the Bengali land, will be worth watching.

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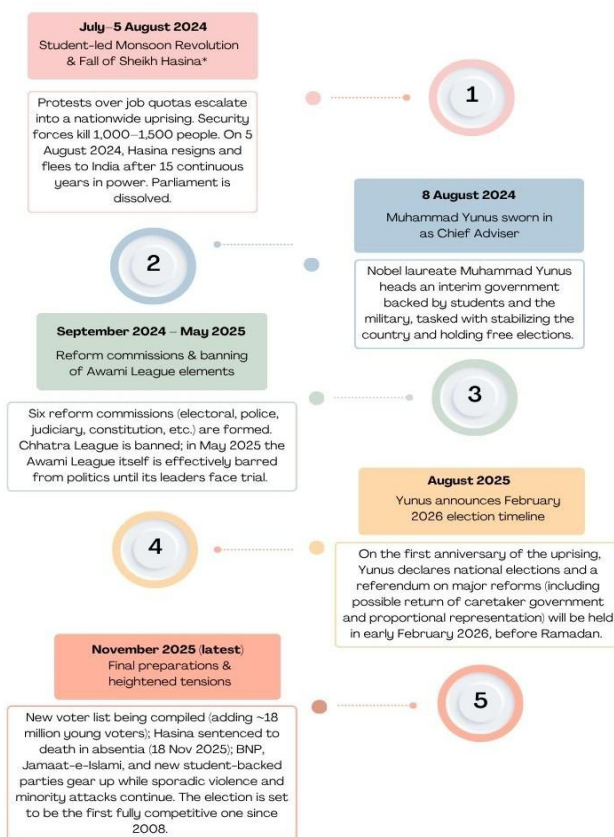
Bangladesh's Political Carade

HYPOTHESIS

Sheikh Hasina's conviction for crime against humanity had a dual impact with grieving families feeling a sense of justice and the former prime minister's loyalists turning the streets into a rage protest. The verdict by Dhaka's International Crimes Tribunal on November 17, 2025, left a deep impact and raises questions on the future of Bangladesh. The dual verdict impact of justice for 2024 victims against Hasina loyalist rage will mostly turn into targeted minority violence. The Yunus government, which is tasked with carrying out changes and supervising the national elections that are currently set for February 2026, has come under increasing criticism for its alleged impartiality. Three well-known student leaders who were appointed as special advisors, **Nahid Islam, Mahfuz Alam, and Asif Mahmud**, are at the centre of this dispute.

ANALYSIS

Bangladesh Political Crisis



As **Dr. Sreeradha Datta** correctly points out, "the Awami League's ability to create chaos may demonstrate its street power, but it cannot erase the memory of Hasina's political transgressions," highlighting the limitations of political power in changing public opinion.

To maintain the impartiality of the interim government, Yunus's administration unofficially asked **Mahfuz Alam and Asif Mahmud** to resign on October 23, 2025, in response to growing pressure from the **BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami**. Critics said that their NCP links violated the impartiality section of the interim charter by allowing unfair advantage, such as quick party registrations and special media coverage. Similar worries were put to rest for Nahid Islam by his earlier resignation, which made the switch to political engagement easy. The interim government under Muhammad Yunus has banned AL from participating,

disenfranchising 40% voter base and prompting threats of boycotts and "massive violent protests" from Hasina's son, **Sajeeb Wazed**, if the ban persists. This risks a "volatile vote,"

warning of a "fever pitch" in divisions that could invite **military intervention or risk 'mobocracy' via Jamaat-e-Islami (JI)'s agenda to impose Sharia.**

PEOPLE/POLITICAL PARTY/ INDUSTRY	INFLUENCE
JI	Influences 15 banks including Islamic Bank Bangladesh Ltd. (IBBL); Annual Revenue- ~Taka 29 cr (more than BNP and Jatiya Party)
NCP	Published "manifesto for New Bangladesh". Nahid Islam persuaded Yunus not to resign in May 2025.
BANGLADESHI MILITARY	Wants to push for elections in Dec 2025. Internal tensions visible as 15 of its officers were taken into custody.
EU	Largest export destination, 24% of Bangladesh's total trade, Praised 2025 Nov labour act of Bangladesh.
USA	\$6 billion aid through USAID since 1972
CHINA	Yunus's 1 st bilateral trip was to China, talks on purchase of JF17 fighter jets, Teesta River project. \$2.1 billion in investments, loans and grants
INDIA	National Security Advisor of Bangladesh Asif Mahmud Rahman met Ajit Doval in Nov 2025 in India. India provided \$7 billion LoC from 2010-2024
PAKISTAN	Upgradation to Defence Partnership
TURKIYE	Defence Partnership

After the removal of Hasin government, there's political vacuum in Chattogram hills, increasing militant activities, complicating the law-and-order situation. Moreover, Bangladesh's economy is crashing. Garment exports are plumping, and **prolonged chaos could jeopardize the \$4.7 billion IMF package.** The persistent uncertainties and fractures in political consensus may hinder progress and investor trust.

INDIA'S ROLE

Will India extradite Hasina or not? If India is unlikely to cooperate then the relations between India and Bangladesh may remain strained. Sheikh Hasina has been in exile in India from 5th August 2025, after she was overthrown in 2024 and now given the death penalty by International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), India's long-standing alliance with the previous leader of Bangladesh, which was once essential to India's regional strategy, has become diplomatically costly. India is in a challenging situation as Muhammad Yunus's temporary administration in Dhaka requests Hasina's return due to India's unwillingness to extradite the refugee.

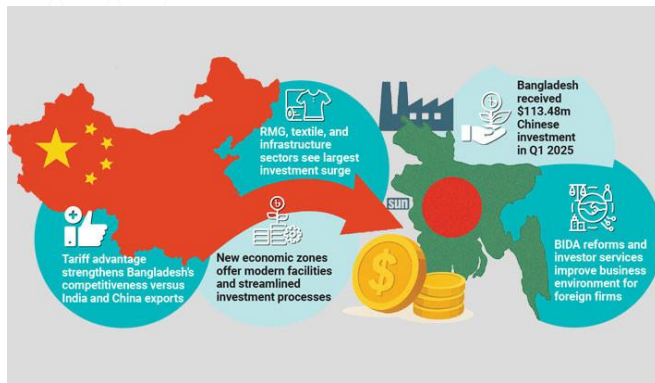


Figure 1 Source: Times of Dhaka

India now has four unsettling options: extraditing Hasina, which is politically unthinkable; keeping the status quo, which is risky given Bangladesh's scheduled elections; pressuring her into silence, which is unlikely to be successful; or moving her to a third country, which is unlikely given her legal and security issues.

Bangladesh is shifting its foreign policy away from India in the meantime, renegotiating energy agreements, delaying connectivity projects, and strengthening ties with China, Pakistan, and Turkey. The general public's opinion of India's backing for Hasina's authoritarian turn has also caused a significant shift in public sentiment, with surveys indicating significantly more favourability toward China than India. China and Bangladesh maintain a **“Strategic Partnership of Cooperation”** as China has also made significant investments in Bangladesh, particularly through engineering deals, direct investment, and infrastructure (power plants, SEZs), with recent data indicating a sharp increase.

In the end, how the next government handles the "Hasina aspect" and the results of Bangladesh's 2025 elections would determine the course of India-Bangladesh ties. The relationship will probably remain fragile, challenging the country's ability to strike a balance between loyalty to an overthrown ally and long-term strategic national interest.

News Summary

Sr No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1.	2/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh faces rising misinformation threat ahead of 2026 polls: Study	thedailystar
2.	3/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh demands political parties agree on reform plan	macaubusines s
3.	3/11/25	Politics	8 parties including Jamaat-e-Islami have called a joint press conference	dailyinqilab
4.	4/11/25	Politics	Hegemonic evil forces are lurking in Bangladesh	mzamin

5.	5/11/25	Politics	Jamaat forms 2-member committee to hold talks with political parties	unb
6.	7/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh BNP Demands February 2026 Elections with Referendum, Accuses Government of Delaying Tactics	News on Air
7.	8/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh Crackdown: Over 50,000 AL Supporters Detained Under Yunus Regime	thevoice
8.	8/11/25	Politics	Mistakes were certainly made: Hasina	thedailystar
9.	9/11/25	Politics	No end in sight to charter deadlock	thedailystar
10.	10/11/25	Politics	Jamaat's new program to put pressure on the government to realize the demands	dailyinqilab
11.	11/11/25	Politics	Awami League Escalates Violence, Bangladesh Responds with Comprehensive Security Measures	BDMilitary
12.	13/11/25	Politics	Global democracies push for fair election in Bangladesh: Khosru	unb
13.	16/11/25	Politics	BNP ignores the power of Hefajat public support in Chittagong?	dailyinqilab
14.	17/11/25	Politics	Sheikh Hasina Sentenced to Death: ICT Delivers Historic Verdict	BDmilitary
15.	17/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh's 2026 polls to be a century defining moment: CA	bssnews
16.	19/11/25	Politics	Why India Will Not Extradite Sheikh Hasina – And How It Reshapes Bangladesh's Strategic Options	BDmilitary
17.	22/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh plans to execute its former leader. There's one big thing in the way: India	cnn
18.	22/11/25	Politics	Bangladesh to pick 'right course' amid global realignments: Touhid	bssnews

19.	2/11/25	Economy	Remittance inflow increases by 7pc in October	bssnews
20.	3/11/25	Economy	Significant progress reported in investment sector	Daily Sun
21.	3/11/25	Economy	Political Unrest: Garment orders moving to other countries	Daily Sun
22.	4/11/25	Economy	Bangladesh to import \$1b worth of US soybeans	Daily Sun
23.	4/11/25	Economy	bKash, Robi, Banglalink and other conglomerates line up for digital bank licence	Daily Sun
24.	5/11/25	Economy	IMF-World Bank joint mission urges unified debt management office	Daily Sun
25.	5 /11/25	Economy	Foreign-aided projects falter, Tk21,000cr cut in revised ADP	Daily Sun
26.	10/11/25	Economy	Gold price rises to Tk2.04 lakh per bhuri	daily-sun
27.	10/11/25	Economy	Economic growth in Bangladesh shows slight improvement	prothomalo
28.	10/11/25	Economy	RMG sector urges stable policy support for LDC graduation	bssnews
29.	11/11/25	Economy	Bangladesh's packaged food market likely to reach \$6b by 2030	jagonews24
30.	12/11/25	Economy	LNG dependence may deepen Bangladesh's economic crisis in next decade: Global report	daily-sun
31.	13/11/25	Economy	Bank deposits mark second-highest growth in 18 months	bssnews
32.	17/11/25	Economy	CPA signs 22-year deal with Swiss firm Medlog to operate Pangaon Terminal	jagonews24
33.	17/11/25	Economy	Stock market surges before announcement of verdict against Hasina	jagonews24
34.	17/11/25	Economy	Chinese investors eye Bangladesh's expanding manufacturing, infrastructure opportunities: CEAB President	bssnews
35.	17/11/25	Economy	BEPZA EZ attracts \$71m FDI in light engineering & garment accessories	bssnews
36.	18/11/25	Economy	Gold prices fall again in Bangladesh	unb

37.	19/11/25	Economy	Laldia, Pangaon deals: Global boost or big risk for Bangladesh?	jagonews24
38.	20/11/25	Economy	Wages for 13 sectors will need to be raised next year	prothomalo
39.	5/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Chinese Firm AeroSynth Limited to Establish Drone Manufacturing Plant in BEPZA Economic Zone, Chattogram	BD Military
40.	5/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Envoy stresses stronger trade, energy and tourism ties with Nepal	bssnews
41.	5/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Envoy promotes Bangladesh-Mexico trade, investment cooperation	bssnews
42.	6/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Hiring Bangladeshis: Japan for more skills testing centres	Daily Star
43.	8/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Warns Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus To Exercise Caution While Speaking Amid Strained Ties	indiandefense news
44.	9/11/25	Foreign Affairs	BCI, JETRO discuss skill development, boosting Japanese investment	bssnews
45.	10/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Italy eyes stronger ties, lawful migration with Bangladesh	bssnews
46.	10/11/25	Foreign Affairs	Denmark commits 25 million DKK to strengthen human rights in Bangladesh	bssnews
47.	16/11/25	Foreign affairs	Bangladesh sees decline, India and Myanmar see rise	prothomalo
48.	16/11/25	Foreign affairs	Qatar to recruit 800 Bangladeshi armed forces personnel on deputation	The dailystar

49.	17/11/25	Foreign affairs	Bangladesh seeks Hasina, Kamal's extradition from India under treaty	bsnews
50.	18/11/25	Foreign affairs	China's 15th Five-Year Plan to enhance cooperation with Bangladesh: speakers	bsnews
51.	19/11/25	Foreign affairs	Verma stresses pharma sector's importance in Bangladesh-India economic partnership	bsnews
52.	19/11/25	Foreign affairs	Envoy calls for new Japanese investment beyond garment sector	bsnews
53.	19/11/25	Foreign affairs	Denmark reaffirms support for Bangladesh's democratic transition	bsnews
54.	19/11/25	Foreign affairs	Dhaka boosts education diplomacy with Maldives	bsnews
55.	3/11/25	Social	Human chain against corruption-irregularity of government office officials in Jhenaidah	mzamin
56.	21/11/25	Social	Bangladesh 5.5-magnitude earthquake – what we know so far	Aljazeera
57.	2/11/25	Security/ Defence	Govt mulling military hardware production for self-reliance, global sales	jagonews24
58.	3/11/25	Security/ Defence	Bangladesh Eyes Arms Exports as Dhaka Moves to Establish Defence Economic Zone	BD Military

59.	10/11/25	Security/ Defence	Bangladesh Air Force Radar Network Extends Deep into Indian Airspace	BDMilitary
60.	10/11/25	Security/ Defence	Western Alignment: Why Bangladesh's Defence Future Lies with NATO Partners	BDMilitary
61.	12/11/25	Security/ Defence	Bangladesh Proceeding with Arms Purchases from China Despite US Concerns	BDMilitary
62.	12/11/25	Security/ Defence	Bangladesh Resumes Operations from Northern Air Bases: Indian Security Establishment in Panic	BDMilitary
63.	18/11/25	Security/ Defence	Government Approves Procurement of 17,050 New Shotguns for Ansar and VDP	BDmilitary
64.	20/11/25	Security/ Defence	JMK BORA-12 Sniper Rifle	BDmilitary

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