

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dhaka**

Press Release

Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Calls on State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dhaka, 18 August 2026

Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Pema Lektup Dorji called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Shama Obaed Islam, MP today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues of mutual interest. Hon'ble State Minister while appreciating the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) initiative of Bhutan, underscored the expeditious operationalization of the Bhutanese Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Kurigram. She hoped that the two special zones, once operational, will be symbiotic and complementary in boosting mutual beneficial economic engagement through trade, investment employment generation and connectivity.

Hon'ble State Minister recalled the vision of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for regional cooperation as he mooted the idea of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The two sides emphasized the need to revitalize SAARC for regional integration and collective benefit of the peoples.

The Bhutanese Foreign Secretary is on a three-day visit to Dhaka to attend the 4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Bhutan that was held earlier today.
