

Fourth Bangladesh–Bhutan Foreign Office Consultations

Joint Press Statement

Dhaka, 18 August 2026

The Fourth Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) was held today in Dhaka. The Meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam, GoB and the Foreign Secretary Pema Lektup Dorji, RGoB.

The meeting was held in a warm, cordial and constructive atmosphere and provided an opportunity to review the full range of bilateral relations. The two sides also exchange views on cooperation at regional and multilateral level on matters of mutual interest.

Both sides reaffirmed their longstanding bonds of friendship, trust and mutual respect and expressed satisfaction at the steady progress of bilateral cooperation over the years across a wide range of areas, including political, trade and investment, connectivity, education, health, culture, tourism, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen high-level political engagements and regular consultations between the two governments. They emphasized the importance of translating the existing goodwill and political understanding into tangible outcomes for the peoples of both countries.

Expanded cooperation in culture, tourism, agriculture, human resource development, academic cooperation, institutional linkages, youth exchanges, and sports was also reiterated.

Both sides underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade and strengthening private sector cooperation, expanding the product coverage under the Bangladesh–Bhutan Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and exploring the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Bangladesh expressed support and interest in the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) initiative and welcomed its potential to promote sustainable development, regional connectivity and shared prosperity and expressed interest in exploring opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. Bangladesh reiterated to expedite the operationalisation of the Bhutanese Special Economic Zone in Kurigram.

Both sides exchanged views on strengthening regional cooperation under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to promote greater regional integration.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Fourth FOC and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening the close and mutually beneficial Bangladesh–Bhutan partnership.

The next FOC will take place in Thimphu at a mutually convenient date and time.

