

Bimstec Sidelines: Yunus, Modi hold talks in Bangkok

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi today (4 April) held talks on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit – which is viewed as the most significant development in Dhaka-Delhi relations since the July Uprising in Bangladesh.

This was the first-ever in-person meeting between the two South Asian leaders since the formation of Bangladesh's interim government on 8 August, following the fall of the previous government three days earlier.

Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder confirmed to UNB regarding the meeting.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, High Representative to Chief Adviser Khalilur Rahman, Principal Coordinator on SDGs Affairs Lamiya Morshed, CA's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam and Foreign Secretary Md Jashim, among others, were present at the meeting.

This is the biggest India-Bangladesh diplomatic development since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster, and subsequent flight to Delhi (where she remains), observers say.

Earlier, Bangladesh approached India through the diplomatic channel to arrange a meeting between Prof Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Summit.

In his pre-departure statement from India, Modi said he will meet the leaders of the Bimstec countries to discuss ways for strengthening collaboration, keeping the interests of people in mind.

"I look forward to meeting the leaders of the Bimstec

countries and engaging productively to further strengthen our collaboration with the interests of our people in mind," Modi said as he began his visit to Thailand and Sri Lanka on yesterday (3 April).