

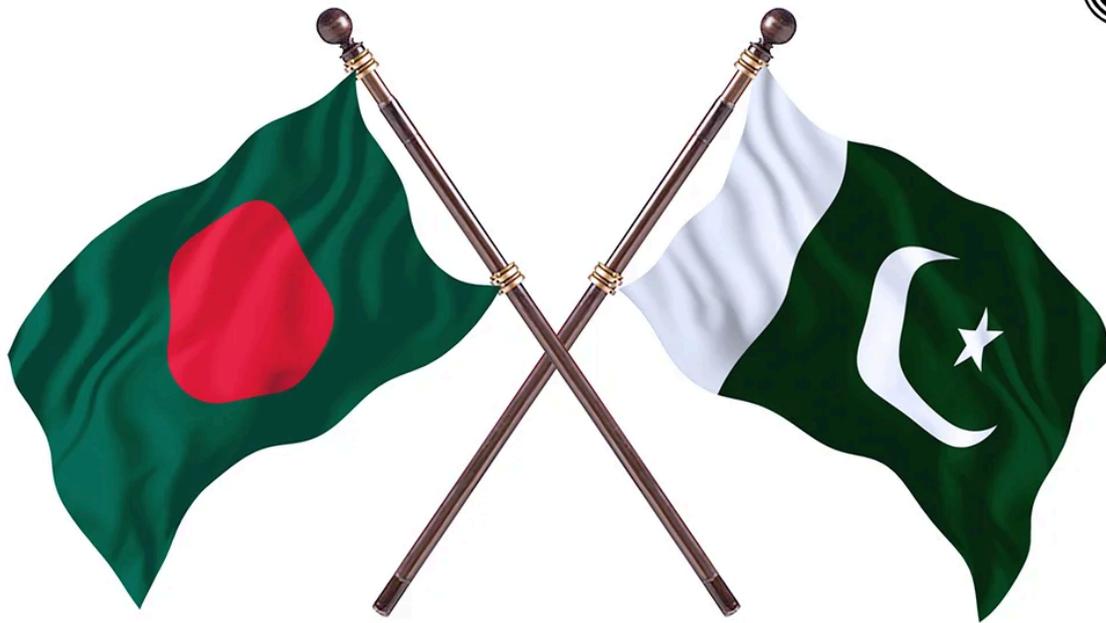
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Pakistan and Bangladesh Finalise Visa-Free Travel Deal for Diplomats and Officials

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In a notable step towards improving bilateral ties, Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to allow visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passports. The agreement was finalised during a high-level meeting in Dhaka on Wednesday between Pakistan’s Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Bangladesh’s Home Minister, Lieutenant General (retired) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury. This mutual decision is

expected to ease official mobility and foster closer coordination on regional matters of shared interest.

The state-run broadcaster, Radio Pakistan, confirmed that both countries have now committed to simplifying official travel procedures, thereby enhancing diplomatic engagement. While the agreement is currently limited to diplomatic and official passport holders, it signals a broader desire by both Islamabad and Dhaka to build more stable and functional relations after decades of fluctuating diplomatic ties. This initiative reflects a pragmatic approach to diplomacy, focusing on mutual interest rather than dwelling on historical grievances. 

This move comes at a time when both Pakistan and Bangladesh are seeking to enhance their standing in regional politics, particularly through cooperative efforts on trade, security and migration management. The visa waiver is not only symbolic of renewed trust but also a practical instrument to streamline intergovernmental communication and reduce bureaucratic delays in bilateral dialogue. It may also serve as a stepping stone to future agreements, potentially opening doors to wider collaboration in education, trade and people-to-people exchange.

From a strategic standpoint, this development underscores the importance of South Asian states cultivating independent and constructive bilateral relationships outside of broader geopolitical pressures. While both countries have traditionally had complex relationships with global powers, this agreement illustrates a growing maturity in regional diplomacy. It is a welcome shift toward solutions-based engagement that avoids the combative rhetoric which often derails meaningful cooperation. As Pakistan and Bangladesh move forward with this initiative, there is cautious optimism that diplomacy

anchored in practicality and mutual benefit can yield long-term regional stability.

