

Bangladesh seeks easier visa access, direct flights in talks with Indonesia

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 13 April, 2026



Dhaka: The second round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Indonesia was held in Jakarta on April 13, with a strong focus on enhancing connectivity, including visa facilitation and direct air links.

The Bangladesh delegation, led by Foreign Secretary Ambassador Asad Alam Siam, raised the need for easing visa procedures for Bangladeshi nationals to promote smoother travel, business exchanges, and people-to-people connectivity.

Bangladesh also emphasized the importance of establishing direct flights between the two countries to further strengthen economic and cultural ties, read a press release from the ministry.

The Indonesian side, led by Director General Dr. Santo Darmosumarto,

engaged in constructive discussions on these proposals as part of broader efforts to deepen bilateral cooperation.

Both sides reviewed the full spectrum of relations, covering trade, investment, energy, agriculture, digital economy, tourism, and cultural exchanges.

Bangladesh invited increased Indonesian investment in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, ICT, renewable energy, and tourism, while both countries agreed to enhance trade facilitation and private sector engagement.

Recognizing the strategic importance of connectivity, the discussions underscored that simplified visa processes and direct air links could significantly boost tourism, business travel, and overall bilateral engagement.

The consultations also addressed regional and multilateral cooperation, with Bangladesh seeking Indonesia's continued support on key issues, including the repatriation of displaced Rohingyas and its engagement with ASEAN.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to advancing bilateral relations through practical measures, particularly in improving mobility and connectivity between the two nations.

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