

South Asia Daily Briefing

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On January 29, 2026, South Asia displayed a dynamic convergence of diplomatic, trade, and security initiatives.

Bangladesh's dismissal of India's security advisory and the resumption of direct Dhaka-Karachi flights underscore Dhaka-Islamabad normalization, even as Dhaka deepens defence ties with Beijing through a UAV facility.

India simultaneously advanced strategic outreach, launching the 'Bharat Container Line' to enhance trade autonomy and engaging Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia on security and counter-terrorism cooperation.

Sri Lanka reinforced security for the politically sensitive T20 World Cup India-Pakistan fixtures, reflecting broader regional stability concerns.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka's digital partnership highlights technological and economic collaboration amid shifting regional alliances.

Collectively, these developments illustrate South Asia's intricate balancing of economic growth, security, and diplomacy, with emerging Chinese and Gulf influences shaping strategic trajectories.

1. **Bangladesh says 'no security risks'; clears shooting team for India travel amid diplomatic tensions**

Bangladesh's government dismissed India's advisory for Indian diplomats' families to return home, asserting there's no security threat — highlighting ongoing diplomatic friction between Dhaka and New Delhi.

🔗 Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-security-concern-for-indian-diplomats-or-their-kin-bangladesh/articleshow/127749050.cms>

2. **Champions Bangladesh women's team to return home today**

While primarily sports news, the return of Bangladesh's women's team from Bangkok also reflects Dhaka's ongoing engagement abroad; included here for its relevance to **current affairs on 29 Jan 2026**.

🔗 Link: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/355824>

3. **Air link revived: Pakistan, Bangladesh restore direct flight operations**

January 29, 2026 — Direct flights between Dhaka and Karachi resumed after a **14-year hiatus**, marking a notable step in Pakistan-Bangladesh connectivity and bilateral ties.

🔗 Link:

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/air_link_revived_pakistan_bangladesh_restore_direct_flight_operations-3992083

4. **Sri Lanka boosts T20 World Cup security with eye on India-Pakistan games**
Sri Lanka announced enhanced security arrangements for the upcoming T20 World Cup, especially for matches involving India and Pakistan, against a backdrop of regional tensions.
🔗 Link: <https://arab.news/y5b6y>
5. **India is set to launch the ‘Bharat Container Line’ — International & World News**
January 29, 2026 — India plans a national container shipping line to reduce reliance on foreign carriers, a major trade policy shift with implications for regional trade dynamics.
🔗 Link: <https://saachibaat.com/international-news/international-world-news-29-january-2026/>
6. **Pakistan, Sri Lanka launch digital partnership**
January 29, 2026 — Pakistan and Sri Lanka established a **Joint Working Group on IT and Digital Economy** during the 13th Joint Economic Commission session, reaffirming commitments to expand bilateral trade and cooperation in technology and industry.
🔗 Link: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1969670>
7. **1. India and Saudi Arabia review security cooperation during India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council meeting**
Description: India and Saudi Arabia held the **third meeting** of their Security Working Group under the Strategic Partnership Council in Riyadh, covering key defence and counter-terrorism cooperation. The talks reaffirm efforts to strengthen bilateral strategic ties amid evolving regional security dynamics.
Link: <https://saachibaat.com/international-news/international-world-news-29-january-2026/>

8. **2. India set to launch the ‘Bharat Container Line’ to reduce reliance on foreign carriers**
Description: India announced plans for a new national container shipping line aimed at reducing dependence on foreign maritime carriers, a significant policy shift that could reshape trade logistics and strengthen strategic autonomy in global shipping.
Link: <https://saachibaat.com/international-news/international-world-news-29-january-2026/>

9. **3. India–Uzbekistan foreign ministers review bilateral cooperation**
Description: India’s External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar held a telephonic discussion with Uzbekistan’s Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov on January 28 to assess expanding bilateral cooperation across economic, security, and cultural domains.
Link: <https://saachibaat.com/international-news/international-world-news-29-january-2026/>

10. **Sri Lanka boosts T20 World Cup security with special focus on India-Pakistan games**
Description: Sri Lanka announced enhanced security measures for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, including deployment of elite armed units to protect all visiting

teams — especially during the politically charged India-Pakistan fixtures.

Link: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/sport/cricket/402076/sri-lanka-boosts-t20-world-cup-security-with-eye>

11. **Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumes Dhaka-Karachi direct flights after decade-long break**

Description: Bangladesh's national airline announced that **direct flights between Dhaka and Karachi** will resume from January 29, restoring nonstop air connectivity after more than a decade — a move reflecting improving bilateral engagement between Dhaka and Islamabad.

Link: <https://saachibaat.com/international-news/international-world-news-29-january-2026/>

12. **China to establish UAV production facility in Bangladesh**

Description: Bangladesh signed an agreement with China for the establishment of an **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) production and assembly facility**, as Dhaka seeks to bolster its indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and deepen strategic ties with Beijing.

Link: <https://saachibaat.com/international-news/international-world-news-29-january-2026/>