

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

04 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Islami Andolan calls countrywide marches on 5 Aug to press for July Charter:** Islami Andolan Bangladesh has announced “mass processions” across all the 64 districts of the country on 5 August to press the government on implementing the July Charter in its “complete form.” On the day, the Islamic Party’s chief Mufti Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim (Pir Charmonai) would also lead a mass rally at the Paltan intersection in the capital, said a press statement issued Monday (*Daily Sun*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **11-party alliance to unveil new set of programmes Aug 5:** The 11-party alliance will unveil its next major programme at a rally in Dhaka on August 5. The decision was taken Monday evening at a high-level meeting at the official residence of Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman on Minto Road. The meeting was chaired by Shafiqur Rahman and attended by senior leaders including National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam, LDP President Col (retd) Oli Ahmad, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish Ameer Mamunul Haque, and AB Party Chairman Mojibur Rahman Manju. **Leaders voiced concern over soaring commodity prices, the gas crisis, “phantom” electricity bills, and deteriorating law and order.** According to a press release, processions will be held in metropolitan areas, districts and upazilas on Wednesday, demanding implementation of the “people’s verdict” delivered through the referendum (*The Daily Star*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **March held demanding cancellation of NCT-CCT lease process:** A march towards Chattogram Port was held on Monday demanding cancellation of the proposed lease process for New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and Chattogram Container Terminal (CCT). **Organisers of the event insisted that no port facility should be leased to either domestic or foreign entities.** The programme, organised by Port Protection Committee, Chattogram (Bondar Rokkha Committee), commenced at Badamtoli intersection in Agrabad. As the procession proceeded towards the port, it was stopped by police at Barik Building intersection, where the organisers concluded the event with a brief rally. At the rally, the committee’s convener, Engineer Delwar Majumdar, announced that a “Port Protection Citizens Convention” will be held at 10am on 15 August at the July Hall of Chattogram Press Club. He said the convention would bring together workers, business leaders, professionals, academics, journalists, and members of civil society to strengthen the movement to protect the country’s premier seaport (*Times of Bangladesh*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP warns govt over ignoring referendum:** The National Citizen Party on Monday warned that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party government risked a shorter tenure by ignoring the outcome of the 2026 referendum that mandated constitutional reforms. **The party also accused the government of failing to ensure proper treatment for those injured in the 2024 July uprising, berating what it described as attempts to rehabilitate the Awami League the activities of which are banned.** The warning and accusations came at a discussion organised by the NCP at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital to mark the second anniversary of August 3, 2024, when the Students Against Discrimination announced the one-point demand for

the resignation of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. **Addressing the programme, NCP convener and opposition chief whip Md Nahid Islam said that the NCP would mobilise citizens to resist the Awami League's rehabilitation, saying, 'If Sheikh Hasina returns from exile, she will be taken straight from the airport to the gallows.'** Nahid alleged that the ruling BNP had failed to bring about meaningful political changes after the uprising (*New Age*, [04 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Mahfuj says NCP didn't turn out the way people hoped after uprising:** Former adviser to the interim government Mahfuj Alam on Monday said the National Citizen Party failed to live up to the expectations people had of it in the aftermath of the July uprising. **'The Jatiya Nagorik Committee was formed bringing together people from both the right and the left. But later, when it took the shape of the NCP, the party moved away from that inclusive space,'** Mahfuj said while speaking at a seminar titled 'Return of Electoral Democracy: Reflections and Learning from 2026,' organised by the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development at the BRAC Centre in Mohakhali. Mahfuj said the party ended up favouring or excluding members based on which political camp, right or left, they belonged to. Speaking on the same panel, former NCP leader Tasnim Jara, who contested as an independent candidate from Dhaka-9 in the February 2026 national election, said she did not leave the party out of any grievance. 'People think I left NCP in a huff. To tell the truth, the party itself did not stay true to its position. I have remained firm in mine.' Another former NCP woman leader, Tajnuva Jabeen, said those who once embodied the spirit of a discrimination-free Bangladesh and took to the streets in the 2024 movement that ousted the previous government are no longer organised as a force (*New Age*, [03 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Home Minister says Awami League doesn't have capacity to mount activities ahead of 5 August:** The Awami League, whose activities have been banned, lacks the capacity to organise any activities surrounding the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said. He said the party was, on the one hand, a banned organisation (activities prohibited) and, on the other, a mafia force. **"They may occasionally make token gestures from abroad. Beyond that, nothing more is to be expected,"** he said. Salahuddin Ahmed made the remarks on Monday, in response to questions from journalists in front of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the Secretariat. Referring to the law and order situation ahead of this year's anniversary, the home minister said a meeting chaired by the prime minister would be held tomorrow, Tuesday. **Representatives of all political parties will attend the meeting, he added. Salahuddin Ahmed said the Awami League will not be allowed to carry out any acts of sabotage centring on 5 August. "The party no longer possesses the capability to do so,"** he said. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said on Monday that law enforcement and security agencies have been placed on high alert across the country ahead of 5 August (*Prothom Alo*, [03 August 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Cabinet scraps essential drugs list and pricing method:** The Cabinet has approved a proposal to scrap the Essential Drugs List 2026 and the Drug Price Determination Method 2026. The proposal was approved on Monday afternoon during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Secretariat. A press release issued by the Cabinet Division following the meeting confirmed the decision. **According to the press release, the government remains committed to ensuring safe, effective, high-quality, and affordable medicines for the public. It further said that the rationale behind scrapping the Essential Drugs List 2026 and the Drug Price Determination Method 2026 stems from a statutory requirement under the Drugs and**

Cosmetics Act 2023, which stipulates that the National Drug Advisory Council must be consulted prior to formulating the essential drugs list—a procedure that was not observed. Formulated in January 2026 during the interim government’s tenure, the essential drugs list and pricing policy were drafted without consulting the National Drug Advisory Council (*Prothom Alo*, [03 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Draft law makes enforced disappearance convicts financially liable to victims’ families:** The cabinet today gave final approval to the draft “Gum Protirodh O Protikar Ain, 2026”, subject to vetting by the law ministry, proposing a comprehensive legal framework that recognises enforced disappearance as a distinct, cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable criminal offence. The approval came at the 15th cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman held at the Secretariat, according to a press release issued by the Cabinet Division. **Under the proposed law, the families of victims of enforced disappearance will be compensated from the assets of convicted offenders. If the convicted individuals do not have sufficient resources, the government will provide the compensation.** The draft law requires investigations to be completed within a maximum of 120 days and trials within a further 120 days. **It provides for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a fine for the offence of enforced disappearance. Where an enforced disappearance results in death, if the body is recovered, or if the victim cannot be found either alive or dead even after five years, the proposed law prescribes the death penalty or life imprisonment, along with a maximum fine of Tk 1 crore.** The Cabinet Division said the draft law includes provisions for government legal aid, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and the establishment of a compensation fund for victims’ families (*The Daily Star*, [03 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Land lease for 55 MW solar power plants at Jamuna Bridge site approved:** The Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has approved the long-term lease of 120 acres of land at the Jamuna Bridge site for the construction of a 55-megawatt solar power plant. The project is aimed at expanding the use of renewable energy and develop environmentally friendly infrastructure. The approval was given today at the 117th board meeting of the Bangladesh Bridge Authority held at the conference room of the Bridges Division. Once implemented, the project is expected to increase the supply of electricity from renewable sources to the national grid and contribute positively to environmental protection by reducing carbon emissions. The board also approved a proposal to prepare an integrated master plan for the phased installation of solar panels at various facilities under the Bangladesh Bridge Authority. In addition, the board decided to amend the existing policy for allocating flats in the rehabilitation village to improve the resettlement of families affected by the Dhaka Elevated Expressway construction project (*BSS News*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Padma Barrage key to water security, food production, climate resilience: Experts:** Policy analysts, academics and water management experts today described the proposed Padma Barrage as a strategic national project that could strengthen Bangladesh’s water security, boost agricultural productivity and enhance climate resilience. They made the observations at a high-level roundtable discussion titled “The Padma Barrage: Prospects & Challenges”, organised by the Institute for Global Cooperation Foundation (IGCF) at the Tofazzal Hossain Manik Miah Hall of the National Press Club in the city. **The participants agreed that the project would play a crucial role in combating salinity in the country’s southwest, ensuring sustainable irrigation,**

safeguarding food security and promoting integrated, data-driven water management. Prime Minister's Adviser on the Ministries of Finance and Planning Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said Bangladesh's fundamental water challenge lies in the paradox of having too much water or too little water. He said the 1977 Ganges Water Sharing Treaty remained the country's only historic milestone in water management, but subsequent initiatives had suffered from weak implementation. **Titumir said the government, under the direct guidance of the Prime Minister, has redesigned the Padma Barrage project in line with public aspirations and modern requirements, ending decades of policy stagnation.** He expressed optimism that the project would add between 0.5 and 1.0 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while significantly expanding irrigation coverage and agricultural production (*BSS News*, [03 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Rice distribution launched under government Food-Friendly Programme:** The Ministry of Food has started distributing rice under its Food-Friendly Programme from Aug 1 to ensure food security, stabilise market prices, and ensure food assistance to low-income groups during lean times. **Under this programme, 30kg of rice will be distributed every month at a price of Tk 15 per kg for six months (August to November, and March and April) among 5.5 million card-holding beneficiaries in 495 Upazilas, the ministry said on Monday.** The programme also aims to address malnutrition among the poor, especially women and children. Fortified rice is currently being distributed to about 2,529,000 beneficiaries in 248 Upazilas and plain rice is being distributed to 2,971,000 beneficiaries in 247 Upazilas. At the same time, the regular distribution of rice and flour under the Open Market Sale (OMS) programme will continue through 1,108 centres (shops/trucks) across the country. The ministry said the country's food stock remains satisfactory, with reserves at a record high, while food grain procurement continues (*bdnews24.com*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt turns to solar for energy security:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday ordered a three-pronged push to expand renewable energy, directing authorities to install solar panels on major government buildings, support domestic solar equipment manufacturing and develop affordable financing to encourage wider household adoption of clean energy. The directives came at a high-level meeting on solar power at the Prime Minister's Office in the Bangladesh Secretariat, as the government stepped up efforts to strengthen energy security and reduce dependence on conventional power sources. **Under the first directive, rooftop solar systems will be installed in phases at key state buildings, including Bangabhaban, the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon, Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Finance buildings at the Secretariat, the Planning Commission building and several other important government establishments.** Rahman also instructed the relevant authorities to facilitate the import of raw materials needed for the domestic production of solar inverters, aiming to strengthen Bangladesh's renewable energy industry and reduce reliance on imported finished products. His third directive called for a sustainable financing model to make solar power more affordable, accessible and commercially viable for households, encouraging greater use of renewable energy technologies (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM calls for developing economic zones as green industrial hubs:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has emphasized the importance of transforming Bangladesh's economic zones into green, modern, and investment-friendly industrial hubs by ensuring a balance between industrialization and environmental protection. He made the call while presiding over a meeting of Governing Board of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) at Prime Minister's Office

in the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat. The governing board of BEZA made several important decisions aimed at expanding the country's economic zones, increasing investment, creating employment opportunities, and protecting the environment, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Md. Suzauddhowla Sujon Mahmud. **According to him, as part of the government's nationwide 25 crore tree plantation programme, trees will be planted in every Export Processing Zone (EPZ) across the country. Under this initiative, a total of 125,000 trees will be planted in various EPZs. Mahmud said the initiative aims to maintain environmental balance alongside industrialization, increase green coverage, and make the economic zones more environmentally friendly.** He said the meeting reviewed the progress in implementing the decisions taken in the previous meeting of the board (*BSS News*, [03 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi says Dhaka, Delhi have potential to become global economic powerhouse:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Monday said Bangladesh and India possess all the ingredients necessary to emerge as a global economic powerhouse. During a meeting with the leaders of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC Bangladesh) at its Secretariat, he observed that both countries have exceptional strengths in innovation, education, healthcare and human capital, and stressed that these advantages should be translated into stronger economic cooperation and sustainable development. **The High Commissioner said many longstanding bilateral issues could be resolved through sustained engagement and dialogue at the highest political level. The Indian envoy also highlighted the significant opportunities for establishing joint venture industries in border areas, which could strengthen regional value chain, attract investment and create employment.** Reaffirming the High Commission's commitment to supporting the business community, he encouraged Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and investors to approach the High Commission whenever they encounter challenges in expanding bilateral trade and investment. At the meeting, both sides exchanged views on strengthening bilateral trade, investment and regional economic cooperation (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Sheikh Hasina's political statements should be prevented, PM's adviser tells Indian high commissioner:** Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir has sought the Indian government's cooperation to ensure that ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as well as any member of the Awami League, whose activities are currently banned, is not allowed to use Indian territory to make political statements. He warned that such activities could undermine the positive progress in bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India. The remarks were made on Monday afternoon during a courtesy meeting with Dinesh Trivedi, India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting took place at the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon. The statement said, "In this regard, the foreign affairs adviser informed the high commissioner that Bangladesh expects India's cooperation in ensuring that fugitive Sheikh Hasina, or any individual associated with a banned organisation, is not allowed to use Indian territory to make political statements or engage in activities aimed at creating instability within Bangladesh." He noted that such actions could negatively affect the positive momentum in bilateral relations. **According to the statement, the Indian High Commissioner assured the adviser that the matter would be given due consideration, that the necessary inquiries would be made, and that India would remain attentive to the issue** (Prothom Alo, [03 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks India's stance on Hasina virtual event:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Monday said Bangladesh expects India to clarify its position on former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's reported virtual appearance at an event in New Delhi on August 5, while emphasizing that Dhaka wants to maintain a forward-looking relationship with its neighbor. "We are moving forward with India with a forward-looking approach. We don't want it to be damaged, and I firmly believe that India doesn't want it either. So, India has to be clear whether it is supporting it or not," Shama told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to Indian media reports, Hasina is [expected](#) to make her first public appearance in India since fleeing Bangladesh following the August 2024 student-led uprising. She is scheduled to join the event organized by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC South Asia) in New Delhi on August 5. Responding to questions, the state minister noted that the reported event is not being organized by the Indian government. She said Dhaka would decide whether diplomatic communication with New Delhi is necessary depending on the circumstances. "If we think it is necessary, the government will contact the relevant foreign ministry," she said. Asked whether Bangladesh would formally protest or seek an explanation before the event, she reiterated that the program is not being organized by the Indian government. Shama said Bangladesh has repeatedly conveyed to India—both verbally and in writing—that fugitives or convicted individuals should not use Indian territory for political activities aimed at destabilizing Bangladesh (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dhaka 'positive' on Washington's civil nuclear cooperation proposal:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed has said the government will view positively a US proposal to sign a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to revive civil nuclear cooperation with Bangladesh. About the proposal, she said on Monday: "The government's stance is positive. If any bilateral agreement or relationship with the United States serves the interests of the people of Bangladesh, we will move forward. "And if it is not in the interest of the people, we will reconsider it." US President Donald Trump's Special Envoy Sergio Gor met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman last week, during which the proposal to renew the civil nuclear cooperation framework was raised (*bdnews24.com*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Humaiun Kobir says Bangladesh well-placed for regional connectivity:** Emphasising the growing importance of regional connectivity, Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir on Monday said investments in transport infrastructure, aviation and digital networks are key drivers of economic growth and stronger people-to-people contacts. "Bangladesh's strategic location provides significant opportunities to strengthen regional connectivity and expand cooperation in trade, tourism, investment and cultural exchanges," he said, noting that Bangladesh welcome greater collaboration with China and other international partners in advancing sustainable infrastructure, aviation, tourism and innovation for the benefit of the people. Speaking as the chief guest at a joint training session's opening ceremony in the capital, the adviser stressed that future prosperity will depend not only on economic success but also on the quality of institutions, social resilience and international cooperation. The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) hosted the joint training program titled "2026 Comparative Governance Forum" at the BIISS Auditorium. He said Bangladesh believes the international system must be more inclusive, rules-based and responsive to the aspirations of all nations. "We support multilateralism, peaceful dialogue and international cooperation as the most effective means of addressing common global challenges" (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chinese envoy says Bangladesh needs political unity, social stability:** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Monday said challenges such as maintaining “political unity and social stability” under complex circumstances, breaking through the bottleneck of a single-industry structure, and creating a more favorable external environment are important issues that need to be addressed in Bangladesh’s governance journey. **Speaking at a joint training program, he said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s people-centered, pragmatic, and efficient governing style has brought a fresh look to national governance.** The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) hosted the joint training programme titled “2026 Comparative Governance Forum” at the BISS Auditorium. **The envoy said President Xi Jinping emphasised that no matter how the world changes, China will not waver in its commitment to the overall direction of China-Bangladesh friendly relations, and will always be a trustworthy good friend, good neighbour or and good partner of Bangladesh.** The Ambassador said both sides agreed to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and further align development strategies. The envoy said Bangladesh-China practical cooperation is steadily moving toward one with more optimised structure, broader scope, and at a higher level. Exchanges on governance are an integral part of building a Bangladesh-China community with a shared future in the new era, he said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Australia commits \$25.25mn to support Rohingya in Bangladesh:** Australia has committed \$25.25 million to sustain life-saving assistance and protection for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. **The three-year funding package, covering 2026-2028, will be channelled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support humanitarian programmes for the displaced population.** The UNHCR said on Monday that the funding comes at a time of growing uncertainty over global humanitarian financing and will help maintain essential services for refugees and host communities. The assistance will support protection activities, skills development programmes, disaster risk reduction measures and other essential services in the refugee camps, it added. The contribution was announced in the presence of Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and Australia’s Assistant Minister for Citizenship Julian Hill (*bdnews24.com*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khalilur seeks greater regular migration opportunities in Australia:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on Monday highlighted the importance of expanding regular migration opportunities for Bangladeshi nationals to Australia. **During his meeting with Australia’s Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs, and Multicultural Affairs and Assistant Minister for International Education Julian Hill, he sought Australia’s continued cooperation in combating irregular migration and human trafficking.** Their discussions covered cooperation in regular and irregular migration, skills development, higher education, energy, and women’s empowerment. The state minister sought more opportunities for Bangladeshi students to pursue higher education in Australia, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US Pacific Fleet commander to visit Bangladesh:** Admiral Steve Koehler, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, will arrive in Dhaka on Tuesday for a three-day official visit from August 4 to 6, US Embassy Dhaka acting spokesperson Mara Bird said on Monday. **During his visit, Admiral Koehler is scheduled to meet senior Bangladeshi officials to discuss the longstanding US-Bangladesh defence partnership and opportunities to expand cooperation in maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster response and professional military education, she said** (*New Age*, [03 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM invites South Korean President, seeks stronger trade ties:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today invited President of South Korea to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time as the two countries explore ways to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation. **He made the invitation during his meeting with South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo at the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat here this afternoon, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin. At the outset of the meeting, the South Korean trade minister briefed the Prime Minister on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Bangladesh and South Korea.** He said the agreement, once signed and implemented, would further expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries while significantly increasing South Korean investment in Bangladesh (*BSS News*, [03 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Riyadh official's visit tied to passport demand for Rohingyas in KSA:** Saudi Arabia's senior vice minister for foreign affairs, Waleed Elkhareiji, arrived in Dhaka on Monday, reportedly with an agenda demanding the country issue passports to Rohingyas living in Saudi Arabia. **He is leading a delegation of around 10 senior officials, foreign ministry sources confirmed.** According to the sources, one of the key issues expected to be discussed during the visit is Saudi Arabia's long-standing request that Bangladesh address the status of Rohingyas residing in the Kingdom. Elkhareiji landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, where he was received by prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs Humayun Kabir. On Tuesday morning, he is scheduled to hold a joint meeting with foreign minister Khalilur Rahman and home minister Salahuddin Ahmed at the state guest house Padma. Later in the afternoon, Elkhareiji is expected to meet prime minister Tarique Rahman, officials said. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a foreign ministry official said that the issue of Rohingyas currently residing in Saudi Arabia is expected to dominate the discussions. **'The composition of the delegation reflects the importance Riyadh attaches to this issue, as it includes several senior officials dealing with the matter,' according to officials** (*New Age*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mahdi Amin, Thai ambassador discuss visa facilitation, trade, bilateral cooperation:** Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Thitiporn Chirasawadi held a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister's Adviser and spokesperson at the Prime Minister's Office Mahdi Amin. **During the meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday (3 August), the two sides discussed a wide range of issues, including bilateral relations, visa facilitation, education, healthcare, trade and labour migration. The meeting underscored the importance of strengthening people-to-people contacts and expanding cooperation in education, skills development, health and commerce between the two countries. Both sides emphasised the need to simplify the visa application process and address longstanding problems caused by intermediary syndicates. They also expressed support for a target of issuing Thai visas within seven days in most cases. Discussions also covered the introduction of an e-visa system and measures to expedite visa processing. Education reforms in Bangladesh also featured prominently in the talks. Mahdi outlined initiatives aimed at promoting joyful learning, integrating sports and cultural activities into the curriculum, making the study of a third language compulsory and expanding access to technical and vocational education** (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Army chief calls for integrating modern, Islamic education:** Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman on Monday called for integrating modern and Islamic education, saying the divide between the two limits students' ability to contribute effectively to society. **Speaking while inaugurating the Army International Islamic Institute (AIII) at the Jolshiri Abashon Project in Dhaka, he said reforming the education system was essential to building a stronger nation in the future.** "If we fix the education system today, the society and nation we will have 30 years from now will certainly be stronger," the Army chief said. **According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), General Waker said modern education does not incorporate Islamic education, while Islamic education also lacks elements of modern learning. As a result, students receiving Islamic education often face limitations in playing a broader role in society, he added.** During the ceremony, the Army chief also unveiled the foundation stones of upcoming AIII branches in Barishal, Savar, Bogura, Sylhet, Chattogram, Cumilla and Jashore through video teleconference (VTC). The ISPR said the Bangladesh Army has been contributing to the country's education sector and human resource development by operating quality educational institutions since its establishment. It said the AIII has been established by combining the Cambridge curriculum-based English-medium education with value-based learning to develop students with knowledge, morality, leadership skills and strong human values. The institute aims to provide quality education while nurturing moral and religious values, helping students become disciplined, patriotic and compassionate citizens guided by the Quran and Sunnah. The initiative is also expected to produce responsible leaders capable of contributing at both national and global levels, the ISPR added (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).

[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views or interpretations expressed by various Bangladeshi commentators we make available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Bangladesh Watch (DBW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the existing thought process in Bangladesh having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Bangladesh in a more effective manner. DBW is curated by Dr. Ankita Sanyal, Research Fellow, CPS]