

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

05 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Chhatra Dal-Chhatra Shibir clashes:** Around 150 leaders and activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir were injured in separate clashes at Jagannath University, Dhaka College and Government Madrasah-e-Alia in the capital on Tuesday, as tensions flared over campus influence and programmes marking July Mass Uprising Day. The rival student wings of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the main opposition Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami blamed each other for the violence. Journalists covering the incidents were also among those injured. In a separate incident, at least 20 students were injured in clashes between the two organisations at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur on Monday night. A scuffle and subsequent clash broke out between activists of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and leaders and activists of the Jagannath University Central Students' Union (JnUCSU) and Jatiya Chhatra Shakti over entry into a seminar marking the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising at Jagannath University. Several JnUCSU and Chhatra Shakti leaders and activists were injured in the clashes. The confrontation quickly escalated into a series of clashes involving activists from the JCD, JnUCSU, Chhatra Shibir, Chhatra Shakti, Chhatra Front and other student organisations, leaving around 100 students and journalists injured. Clashes broke out between activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Dhaka College this afternoon, leaving several people injured. The two organisations gave conflicting accounts of how the violence began. Dhaka College Chhatra Dal General Secretary Millad Hossen alleged that the college unit had organised a "kormi shobha" and that a group of its activists was attacked by Shibir members while they were on their way to attend the programme. Dhaka College Chhatra Shibir President Mustakim Ahmed, however, alleged that Chhatra Dal activists attacked first while preparations were underway at the college's Gallery-2 for a reception and discussion programme honouring the families of those martyred in the July mass uprising. Chhatra Dal claimed that more than 11 of its activists were injured in the clash, while Chhatra Shibir alleged that more than 20 of its activist sustained injuries. Tensions over the occupation of hall seats and the establishment of dominance led to a violent clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra Shibir at Government Alia Madrasa in Bakhshibazar on Tuesday. According to campus sources, the atmosphere had been volatile since the morning, eventually escalating into a chase and counter-chase that left seven people, including the madrasa principal, injured. Witnesses reported that while Sanaullah and Nisar Uddin Rabbi were conversing on campus, a group of 30 to 40 Shibir activists launched an unprovoked attack using iron rods, sticks, and bricks. Activists from BNP and allied groups beat up members from 30 student organisations, including Chhatra Shibir, and Chhatra Shakti, inside National Medical College Hospital while they were undergoing treatment for injuries sustained in the clash at Jagannath University. Around 5pm, the BNP-linked activists entered the hospital, and started beating activists from Shibir and Chhatra Shakti both inside and outside the emergency department. One Shibir activist was dragged out of the Emergency section and beat up indiscriminately. Police said they were increasing presence at the hospital to prevent the clash

from spreading (*New Age*, [04 August 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [04 August 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [04 August 2026](#); *Times of Bangladesh*, [04 August 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt urges media not to broadcast statements by convicted fugitives:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday urged all media outlets to refrain from publishing or broadcasting statements by convicted fugitives. The appeal came in a press release issued on Tuesday night. According to the release, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) had earlier imposed a ban on the publication and broadcast of statements by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was convicted in a July-August massacre case and remains a fugitive. The ministry said the tribunal's directive reflects the spirit of the July Mass Uprising. It noted that the ICT instructed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the ICT Division and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to ensure that Sheikh Hasina's statements are not broadcast, to remove previously circulated hate speech by the convicted fugitive from all platforms, and to prevent its further publication or dissemination. The release said the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) has also requested the media outlets not to broadcast statements by the convicted fugitive, citing relevant legal provisions and the need to protect national security. **The government will take necessary action against any media outlet that publishes or broadcasts speeches by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in violation of a court order, Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman said on Tuesday.** Expressing his personal opinion, the adviser said he would not have supported restricting the broadcast of Hasina's speeches had there been no court order (Dhaka Tribune, [04 August 2026](#), [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hasina's hate speech barred, other remarks not restricted:** The International Crimes Tribunal has barred former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from making "hate speech", but has imposed no blanket restriction on her statements, Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam has said. The clarification came amid reports that Hasina could address the public on Aug 5, with questions over whether broadcasting her remarks would carry legal consequences. Speaking at his office, Aminul said the restriction was imposed in an order issued after a contempt of court petition against Hasina. "She has not been barred from making statements. She has only been told not to make hate speech. If she makes normal statements, there is no restriction on those," he said. He urged the media not to broadcast any hate speech by Hasina, but said there was no legal barrier to carrying her other remarks (*bdnews24.com*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Taslina can apply to return to Bangladesh if she wishes:** Controversial author Taslima Nasrin, who is currently living in India, may apply to return to Bangladesh if she wishes, and her application will be considered in accordance with the law, prime minister's information and broadcasting adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said on Tuesday. Speaking at a regular press briefing at the secretariat in the capital, Zahed said the government is not taking any special initiative to facilitate her return. His remarks came after Taslima, while speaking to journalists in Kolkata on Saturday, said she was uncertain whether she would be able to return to Bangladesh. **Asked about her comments, Zahed said the government would decide on any application she submitted in line with the existing laws. Responding to a question about allegations of persecution that Taslima has made against certain individuals in the past, he said that if she returned to Bangladesh, she could seek legal remedy through the courts. 'Criminal offences do not become time-barred. As a victim, she may file a case in court if she wishes,' he said. Asked whether the government would take any initiative to bring her back, Zahed said it had no such plan.** Taslima went into exile after the publication of her novel

Lajja in 1993 triggered widespread controversy and multiple fatwas against her (*New Age*, [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Teachers' Network concerned over 'witch-hunt' at DU:** The University Teachers' Network expressed its concern over disciplinary actions against seven teachers and preparation of a list of another 231 Dhaka University teachers as part of what it described as 'witch-hunt' by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party-loyal authorities. In a statement, the platform warned that such measures undermined academic freedom. The statement said that political opinion or affiliation could not constitute an offence under the University of Dhaka Order, 1973, and described the move of listing teachers as contrary to academic freedom and the rule of law. The network also criticised the university syndicate's July 28 decision to suspend three teachers and relieve four others of all academic and administrative responsibilities. The statement also said that teachers who had incited violence against students, supported repression in residential halls, harassed colleagues or opposed legitimate student movements during the Hasina regime should be held accountable. However, it said, such accountability must be ensured through established legal procedures rather than retaliation or ideological purges. The platform also objected to the administration's decision to form a committee to investigate all teachers included in the 231-strong list, saying that a blanket, list-based investigation itself violated due process (*New Age*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **July Charter to guide constitution amendment process, committee says:** The special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendment will gather opinions from all stakeholders to bring about an acceptable, consensus-based revision, committee members said after holding their first meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Briefing journalists after the meeting, the committee said it plans to review the entire constitution while keeping the July National Charter at the forefront of its deliberations. Chairman of the committee, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, who left the meeting midway, said the panel was open to everyone's views and would consult experts, political parties and professionals. He expressed hope that the opposition would eventually join the committee, adding that it would accept their suggestions regardless. Salahuddin described the July Charter as a document of political consensus. "We will certainly adopt [its proposals]. The points where we gave a note of dissent will be recorded as such," he said, adding that relevant points from their election manifesto would also be included. Law Minister Asaduzzaman said the government would not bypass the July Charter to impose its political ideology. Chief Whip Md Nurul Islam Moni reiterated that the committee's doors remained open for the opposition, saying the constitutional amendment was intended for the next generation. On July 13, Chief Whip Nurul Islam proposed the formation of the special parliamentary committee. The opposition, however, declined to nominate members and staged a walkout, arguing that reforms should instead be carried out through a Constitution Reform Council (*The Daily Star*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM opens July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today, Wednesday opened the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum, established to preserve the history of the 2024 July Mass Uprising and commemorate the sacrifices of its martyrs and fighters. The Prime Minister formally inaugurated the museum by unveiling its plaque at Ganabhaban, the former official residence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on Wednesday morning, making the museum accessible to visitors. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today said the July-August Movement became successful because the people wanted change, asserting that its success belonged to the

country's people rather than any individual or political party. He also said that those responsible for the killings during the anti-fascist movement will be brought to justice through transparent, impartial and credible trials conducted in accordance with the due process of law. Tarique Rahman said the government has decided to name institutions after those killed or became victims of enforced disappearance and other violence over the past 17 years and during the July Mass Uprising. Nobel laureate and former chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus today paid tribute to the martyrs of the July Uprising and called for renewed national unity, saying the spirit of the movement should continue to guide Bangladesh's democratic, economic and social aspirations. (Prothom Alo, [05 August 2026](#), [05 August 2026](#), [05 August 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [05 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chief Prosecutor says ICT working to complete July Uprising trials in a year:** The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is working at full capacity to complete investigations and trials related to the July Uprising within the next 12 months, said ICT Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam on Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference, Aminul Islam said his team and other concerned officials were working “day and night” to meet the goal. Since 5 August 2024, six cases have already been disposed of, he said adding that further swift proceedings would raise questions over the standards. More than 25 other cases are currently under trial, and investigation has been complete in total 40 cases. The prosecution expects to dispose of one or two cases each month. In total, 109 complaints have been selected for investigations out of nearly 600 complaints filed across the country, Aminul Islam noted. He also rejected claims that the accused were being selected out of personal vendetta or on the basis of a “hit list.” Two years after the July uprising, judicial accountability for the atrocities committed during the student-led movement remains incomplete. While the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has convicted 60 people in six cases, no proceedings in the regular courts have reached a conclusion, none of the tribunal verdicts has become final, and all 13 death-row convicts remain at large (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#); [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ex-NCP leader Salahuddin Tanvir arrested over Facebook post about PM:** Gazi Salahuddin Tanvir, a recently expelled leader of the National Citizen Party (NCP), has been arrested in Dhaka in a case filed under the Cyber Security Act over an allegedly offensive Facebook post about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The case was filed on Sunday night by Maftun Ahmed Khan Rubel, president of the Bogura Sadar Upazila unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). According to the case statement, the Facebook post defamed the prime minister and attempted to create public confusion and incite unrest. It says the complaint was lodged after several BNP leaders and activists saw the post and discussed the matter with senior party leaders (*Daily Sun*, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Over 2.56 lakh religious personnel to get monthly honorariums:** Public Administration Adviser to the Prime Minister Md Ismail Zabihullah said on Tuesday that the BNP government will provide monthly honorarium allowances to a total of 2,56,074 imams, muezzins, khadems and personnel of other religious institutions across the country during the current fiscal year. He made the remarks while chairing the seventh meeting of the cell formed by the Prime Minister's Office to implement the government's election manifesto by introducing a monthly honorarium and training-based welfare programme for imams, muezzins, khadems and personnel serving at other places of worship (*Daily Sun*, [05 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Grounded container vessel salvaged successfully from estuary:** The container vessel which ran aground after suffering steering failure while entering the navigation channel of Chattogram Port has been salvaged successfully on early Tuesday. **After rescue, the vessel MV CNC URANUS, carrying 1,282 Twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) containers has been anchored at the Bravo Anchorage of the Outer Anchorage of the port.** The Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) in cooperation with the Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard salvaged the vessel, clearing the port channel, said CPA Secretary Syed Refayet Hamim (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rooftop solar nears 1,000MW, reshaping power sector:** Bangladesh's rooftop solar capacity is approaching the 1,000MW mark, signalling a major shift in the country's electricity landscape by reducing daytime grid demand, cutting reliance on imported fossil fuels and accelerating the transition towards decentralised clean energy, according to a new report. **The report, released on Tuesday by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), says rooftop solar has emerged as the country's fastest-growing distributed energy resource (DER), driven largely by industrial investment and rising grid electricity tariffs. While official government data show rooftop solar capacity stood at 418.1MW as of June 2026, IEEFA estimates installed capacity has already reached 667MW across 239 industrial and commercial establishments.** The think tank says total capacity could already be close to 1,000MW if smaller systems below 0.15MW are included. The report says the rapid expansion is beginning to reshape Bangladesh's power sector by reducing dependence on centrally generated electricity during daylight hours (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Zahed says Gas crisis expected to ease gradually:** Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman has expressed hope that the power shortage and load-shedding situation caused by the ongoing gas supply crisis in the country will gradually improve. He said a major shortfall in gas supply had emerged following an accident involving a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal. However, as the terminal gradually resumes normal operations, the gas shortage is expected to ease in phases, leading to an improvement in the overall power situation. **Supply will be increased in phases rather than being restored to full capacity at once.** As a result, additional pressure on electricity demand is expected to decrease, and both the gas and power crises are likely to ease gradually. **Dr Jahed Ur Rahman said the current crisis cannot be viewed solely as an internal problem. Volatility in the international energy market is also one of the major contributing factors** (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Titumir says 'Agriculture Hub' helps to build \$1 trillion economy by 2034:** Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Finance and Planning Adviser to the Prime Minister, said that the main goal of the current government is to ensure equitable regional development. For the first time in the history of Bangladesh, a special refinancing fund of Taka 3,000 crore has been allocated for the development of agriculture and agro-products in North Bengal, especially with the aim of creating an 'Agriculture Hub' in this region. **The agricultural revolution in the northern region will play an important role in the target set to transform Bangladesh into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034.** He said these things while speaking as the chief guest at the Rajshahi Regional Conference on Agro Processing held today at the conference hall of Rajshahi Primary Teachers Training Institute (PTI). The Finance and Planning Adviser said the government itself does not do business. The government is creating an investment-friendly environment and paving the way for entrepreneurs, he added. In line with the manifesto, work

is underway to achieve economic prosperity from the grassroots level based on the philosophy of 'One Village One Product' (*BSS News*, [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **100 tonnes of green chillies imported from India, prices expected to fall:** Amid volatility in the price of green chillies in the market, around 100 tonnes of green chillies have been imported from India through the Bhomra land port in Satkhira. By Monday evening, 10 trucks carrying the chillies had entered Bangladesh. **Traders hope that if imports continue, the price of green chillies will start to fall within a day or two.** Mushfiquir Rahman, commissioner of Bhomra Customs House, said that by Monday evening, Indian green chillies had arrived in Bangladesh in 10 trucks through the Bhomra land port. After completing the necessary customs procedures and paying the required duties, the chillies will be sent to wholesale markets across the country, he added (*Prothom Alo*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM directs completion of comprehensive database for 'Farmer Card' by Dec:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to prepare a comprehensive and transparent database of farmers by December this year to ensure that government support through 'Farmer Card' reaches genuine beneficiaries. He also instructed the authorities to complete the database through a proper verification process to safeguard farmers' rights. The directives came at a meeting on the Farmer Card programme held at the Prime Minister's Office at the secretariat, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. He said the prime minister also instructed the authorities to ensure that the Farmer Card, featuring the holder's photograph and a QR code, contains information on the farmer's identity, agricultural production, government assistance and agricultural market-related services (*Daily Sun*, [04 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **India says it has no role in Hasina's planned Aug 5 address in Delhi:** India says it has no involvement in former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's planned virtual address in New Delhi. The statement came on Tuesday, a day after Dhaka asked New Delhi to clarify its position on Hasina's planned appearance at an Aug 5 event hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia. **"The interaction that you are referring to is being organised by a private media entity,"** foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Tuesday. **"The government has no involvement whatsoever in it. Neither does it endorse any views that may be expressed at the forum"** (*bdnews24.com*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **India says Tarique invited to BRICS outreach as BIMSTEC chair:** India has clarified that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's invitation to the BRICS summit in New Delhi is linked to Bangladesh's current chairmanship of BIMSTEC, while a separate invitation has been extended for a bilateral visit. India's foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Tuesday said India invited Tarique for a bilateral visit after he took office in February. "You would be aware that a formal invitation for a bilateral visit to India was extended to the Bangladesh PM upon his assumption of office in Feb 2026," Jaiswal said. The BRICS invitation, he said, was separate. "As far as the BRICS Summit is concerned, India has separately extended an invitation to Bangladesh premier in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi," Jaiswal said. "The invitation has been extended as per the standard practice being followed in BRICS for the outreach sessions. Other heads of regional groups have also been invited in a similar

manner.” The clarification comes amid renewed diplomatic attention between Dhaka and New Delhi over former prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s planned virtual appearance at a New Delhi event on Aug 5 (*bdnews24.com*, [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi tells ICCR scholarship recipients to become Bangladesh ambassadors in India:** High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, has congratulated the latest cohort of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship recipients from Bangladesh for the Academic Year 2026-2027, and urged the young scholars to be the ambassadors of Bangladesh and India, in India. **The High Commissioner encouraged the youngsters to use the opportunity to study in India, not only to excel in their respective fields, but also to explore India, build lasting friendships and serve as connectors between Bangladesh and India, says a press release of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.** Trivedi was addressing the ‘Send-off’ ceremony hosted by the High Commission of India, Dhaka to bid farewell to the students selected for the prestigious ICCR scholarships, on 4 August at High Commission premises. The event was attended by over 120 students from Dhaka, who will be shortly traveling to India to pursue graduate, post-graduate and doctoral courses, ranging from Engineering to Fine Arts, and from Pharmacy to Music, in some of the premier institutes in India. This year, 541 students from all over Bangladesh have been awarded the ICCR scholarships; out of which 500 students received the prestigious Subarno Jayanti scholarship to pursue graduate, post-graduate and doctoral courses in both STEM and non-STEM streams. 38 students received the Lata Mangeshkar Dance and Music scholarship to pursue dance, music and culture related courses in India. Three students were further awarded the ICCR’s QUAD scholarship enabling them to pursue under-graduate STEM courses in India (*Prothom Alo*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh-Saudi meet:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister Eng Waleed El-Khereiji on Tuesday agreed to deepen the longstanding Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia relationship by building a strategic, multidimensional partnership and expanding cooperation in trade, investment, and other key sectors. Inviting greater Saudi investment, the prime minister said Bangladesh offers a conducive environment for investors and particularly encouraged investment in the solar power sector. He noted that the government is implementing extensive programs to expand the use of clean energy and said Saudi investment in the sector would be mutually beneficial. **During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to taking bilateral relations to a new level.** El-Khereiji said Bangladesh has created a favorable investment climate under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, adding that Saudi Arabia is keen to strengthen ties and expand investment in a range of promising sectors. **Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on Tuesday reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to freedom of navigation, noting that the country's participation in the Saudi-led Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC) reflects its commitment to safeguarding international maritime trade routes and regional stability.** The foreign minister held bilateral talks with the vice minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Eng Waleed El-Khereiji, at the State Guest House Padma, where the two sides exchanged views on the evolving situation in the Middle East. The meeting also reviewed cooperation in security, investment and multilateral affairs, including Saudi Arabia's support for Bangladesh's election as president of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. **Dr Khalilur expressed Bangladesh's solidarity with the Kingdom, appreciated Saudi Arabia's prudent leadership in promoting regional stability, and reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and international law. Welcoming the Saudi vice minister, the foreign minister reaffirmed that**

Bangladesh attaches the highest importance to its longstanding brotherly and strategic partnership with Saudi Arabia and proposed elevating bilateral relations to a **"Comprehensive Partnership" encompassing political, economic, security and people-to-people cooperation**. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has expressed strong interest in broadening its engagement with Bangladesh beyond the traditional manpower sector, with investment opportunities in fisheries, food, energy, renewable energy, information technology and artificial intelligence. **State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said that Saudi Arabia has expressed strong interest in investing in Bangladesh in a wide range of sectors and recruiting more skilled Bangladeshi workers**. Shama said Saudi Arabia expressed interest in investing in Bangladesh by utilizing its expertise in fisheries, food processing, energy, renewable energy, solar power, information technology and artificial intelligence. The state minister said both sides also discussed enhancing labour cooperation, with Saudi Arabia showing interest in recruiting a larger number of skilled Bangladeshi workers. **Shama said Bangladesh expects to hold a joint investment meeting in Saudi Arabia in the near future, where senior officials, including the Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), are expected to participate**. She also said a Bangladesh-Saudi Political Consultation Meeting and a Joint Working Group meeting are expected to be held later this year to advance bilateral cooperation. Saudi Arabia has allowed Bangladeshi migrant workers to renew their iqama (residency permits) under another employer if their original kafeel (employer) fails to renew it, a Saudi minister said on Tuesday. **Saudi Deputy Minister of Labour Market Policies, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development Muhannad bin Ahmed Al-Essa said that from now on, if the original kafeel of a Bangladeshi worker in Saudi Arabia fails to renew the worker's iqama for any reason, the worker will be able to renew the iqama under another kafeel as quickly as possible, and there will be no legal obstacle to doing so**. He also assured that if detailed information about Bangladeshi workers imprisoned in Saudi jails is sent through diplomatic channels, the Saudi government will give due consideration to granting them clemency (*Dhaka Tribune*, [04 August 2026](#), [04 August 2026](#); *BSS News*, [04 August 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh-Malaysia:** A Malaysian delegation visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at around 2am on Wednesday. BOESL Managing Director Mohammad Rashedul Haque welcomed the delegation and presented its head with a bouquet. **The visit is expected to strengthen Bangladesh-Malaysia cooperation, particularly by creating new employment opportunities for skilled Bangladeshi workers and expanding bilateral ties, BOESL said**. Bangladesh and Malaysia have underscored the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the agriculture, fisheries, and livestock sectors, with a particular focus on expanding trade, technology transfer, and the development of the halal meat industry. The issue was discussed during a courtesy meeting between Fisheries, Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammed Amin Ur Rashid and Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mohd Shuhada Othman at the Secretariat. During the meeting, both sides held fruitful discussions on further consolidating the existing friendly relations between the two countries while expanding cooperation in fisheries, livestock, and agriculture. **Key areas of discussion included the export potential of halal meat, technology and knowledge exchange, research collaboration, skilled manpower development, increased investment, and expansion of agri-livestock trade**. A major focus of the talks was the export potential of Bangladesh's world-renowned Black Bengal goat to Malaysia. The discussions also covered the export prospects of fish, meat, milk, and other animal products. **Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman said the Malaysian labour**

market will reopen for Bangladeshi workers in the last week of August following a bilateral understanding between the two countries. Dr Zahed said the government is committed to ensuring that workers are sent to Malaysia through a transparent and accountable process by addressing the irregularities, excessive costs and harassment that occurred in the past (*Dhaka Tribune*, [04 August 2026](#); *BSS News*, [04 August 2026](#), [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, South Korea ink CEPA, 97pc exports get tariff preference:** Bangladesh and South Korea have signed a bilateral trade agreement that will grant preferential tariff treatment to 97 percent of Bangladeshi goods entering the Korean market. Under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Bangladesh will also extend preferential market access to 87 percent of South Korean products, including selected agricultural goods, plastics and Completely Knocked Down (CKD) items. Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir today disclosed the details while making a joint announcement after the signing ceremony at the Secretariat in the city. Describing the agreement as a landmark achievement, Muktadir said it would create new opportunities for employment generation and accelerate the country's economic growth. He said the agreement would enable Bangladeshi export products, including readymade garments, leather goods and jute products, to gain easier access to the South Korean market. He added that the deal would support export diversification and enhance Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market (*BSS News*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shipping minister for resolving visa issues facing Bangladeshi seafarers:** The Shipping, Road Transport and Bridges and also Railways Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam today directed the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to resolve visa, transit and crew change-related problems faced by Bangladeshi seafarers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other countries. **He urged the ministries and agencies concerned to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and diplomatic engagement with the relevant countries and, if necessary, form a committee to address the issues.** State Minister for Shipping and Bridges Md Rajib Ahsan, MP, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries, divisions and agencies, as well as stakeholders from the maritime industry, also attended the meeting. Different difficulties faced by Bangladeshi seafarers in obtaining UAE transit visas, crew change visas, shore passes and entry clearances dominated the discussion, said a release here this afternoon (*BSS News*, [04 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM Tarique meets US Pacific Fleet Commander Koehler:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has met Admiral Stephen T Koehler, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, in Dhaka on Tuesday to discuss defence cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster management. **The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's Office, covered progress and mutual understanding on the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), as well as Bangladesh's capabilities and contributions in humanitarian assistance and disaster response, Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Hossain Shadhin said.** According to the Prime Minister's Office, the US admiral highlighted Bangladesh's participation in various multinational naval exercises and said the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise would be hosted in Bangladesh in November. Koehler also referred to Bangladesh's participation in the Sea Vision Exercise held in Singapore and expressed hope that the country would take part in future editions of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise and related training activities. Bangladesh reaffirmed that it attaches high importance to its relationship with the United States and expressed interest in further deepening bilateral ties through broader and more contemporary cooperation (*bdnews24.com*, [04 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Integrated border management key to curbing human trafficking:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed today said the government is implementing integrated border management as a key strategy to prevent human trafficking, curb cross-border crimes and strengthen national security. **"Human trafficking is one of the most heinous crimes. Most victims fall prey due to greed, ignorance and lack of awareness," he said.** He made the remarks during a meeting with International Organization for Migration (IOM) Deputy Director General Ugochi Daniels at the UN House in Gulshan. The minister said Bangladesh remains committed to ensuring safe, orderly and dignified migration, adding that integrated border management would play a vital role in preventing human trafficking and other transnational crimes. **He also highlighted the government's initiatives to strengthen migration governance, protect migrants and enhance border security, while describing IOM as one of the Home Ministry's most trusted development partners for more than two decades. Ahmed sought to know whether IOM maintains information on human trafficking networks.** In response, Daniels said the organization can assist in identifying trafficking syndicates and possesses data on global human trafficking trends, which it shares in cooperation with Interpol. Daniels reaffirmed IOM's commitment to supporting Bangladesh in promoting safe migration and stressed the importance of integrated information management to combat human trafficking effectively (*BSS News*, [04 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Bangladeshi man wounded in alleged BSF firing at Jhenaidah border:** A Bangladeshi man has been injured after India's Border Security Force (BSF) reportedly opened fire in Jhenaidah. The incident occurred at the Shyampur border on Monday night, said Munshi Emdadul Islam, assistant director of Border Guard Bangladesh's (BGB) Moheshpur-58 Battalion. The injured man has been identified as Md Rubel Mia, 30. His wife Sanjida Begum said Rubel had been standing in the yard of their home when a bullet allegedly fired by the BSF struck the lower left side of his chest. Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of the DMCH outpost, said the victim had arrived at the hospital with a gunshot wound from Jhenaidah and was receiving treatment. He said relatives had told police that Rubel was injured by BSF firing and the matter had been reported to the relevant police station (*bdnews24.com*, [04 August 2026](#)).



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