

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

17 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Nahid Islam says People won't accept PM Tarique's India visit without accountability for sheltering Hasina:** National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam called the BNP-led government “fraudulent”, accusing it of betraying the people by failing to implement the referendum verdict. Nahid also said people would not accept a visit to India by Tarique Rahman unless New Delhi was held accountable for sheltering Sheikh Hasina and allowing her to speak from there. The NCP chief said, “If this government fails to implement the roadmap approved through the referendum, we will not allow it to remain in power.” He said those responsible for the killings during the July uprising are still being sheltered in India. From there, they continue giving interviews and posting videos on Facebook. “Until India hands over those responsible for the July uprising killings --and those accused of killing Osman Hadi, now in Indian custody -- it will be a betrayal to the people of this country, if the prime minister sets foot on Indian soil,” he said. “Bring them back to Bangladesh first, carry out the death sentences handed down to them and ensure justice. Relations with India can be considered after that,” he added. “If they [BNP govt] compromise with India and visit that country, people will conclude that Tarique Rahman is not the bearer of the nationalist politics pursued by Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia,” he said. The country’s sovereignty, democracy and justice system were attacked on August 5 this year, when Hasina spoke at a programme in Delhi. “But this government could do nothing other than issuing statements.” “Unless the government ensures accountability for July killings, people of this country will never accept Tarique Rahman’s visit to India,” he said (*The Daily Star*, [14 August 2026](#), [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **3 beaten, 2 detained over 'Joy Bangla' slogan, video, shingara distribution at Dhanmondi 32:** Three people were beaten in front of the demolished residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32 in the capital for allegedly chanting ‘Joy Bangla’ slogan, recording videos on their mobile phones and distributing shingaras (snack). Police have so far detained two people from there. A group of people led by a man named ANM Ayas beat them. They identified themselves as ‘July fighters’. ANM Ayas identified himself as the member secretary of an organisation called the State Dialogue Forum (SDF). The incident took place at around 12:00 pm today, Saturday, at the entrance of the road leading to Dhanmondi 32. The names and identities of those beaten could not be confirmed immediately (*Prothom Alo*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **52 lands in jail in case over ‘sabotage plan’ ahead of 15 Aug:** A Dhaka court on Friday sent 52 accused to jail in an anti-terrorism case filed over allegations of planning sabotage and terrorist activities ahead of 15 August. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ariful Islam passed the order after police produced the accused before the court and sought their detention, said Prosecution Division Sub-Inspector Kamal Hossain. The court also sent two other accused to a Child Development Centre, considering their age. Earlier, on the night of 13 August, police arrested the accused from a house in the Bhatara Police Station area. On Friday, Sub-Inspector Md Hafizur Rahman pleaded for their detention before the court (*Daily Sun*, [15 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Two JU JCD members removed over FB posts honouring Sheikh Mujib:** Two members of the Jahangirnagar University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have been removed from all organisational positions and stripped of their primary membership over Facebook posts honouring Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's founding president. According to a press release signed by JCD central office secretary Md Jahangir Alam, the two members were removed on allegations of 'violating organisational discipline'. JCD president Rakibul Islam Rakib and general secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir approved the decision, the statement said (*New Age*, [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rizvi, 3 others made BNP Standing Committee members:** Four BNP leaders have been newly nominated as members of the party's National Standing Committee, the highest policymaking body. They are senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, Chairperson's Advisory Council member Amanullah Aman, former acting convener of BNP Dhaka North unit Farhad Halim (Donor), and Chairperson's Advisory Council member Md Ismail Zabihullah. The BNP announced this in a press release on Saturday. The release, signed by the party's assistant office secretary Muhammad Munir Hossain, said the four leaders were nominated as members of the National Standing Committee to strengthen organisational dynamism and in line with party decisions. **With the addition of the four new members, the BNP's National Standing Committee now has 16 members.** Meanwhile, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has resigned from his position as Secretary General as well as from his other party posts. **According to the BNP's constitution, the party's chairman, senior vice-chairman and secretary general are deemed elected members of the standing committee.** Including them, the National Standing Committee has 19 members. The chairman will serve as the head of the committee. The BNP last reconstituted its standing committee at its sixth National Council on 19 March 2016. Several positions have fallen vacant since then due to the deaths and resignations of members, among other reasons (*Prothom Alo*, [15 August 2026](#), [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Presidential election: Fakhrul, Oli Ahmad's nominations valid:** The Election Commission (EC) has declared the nomination papers of BNP candidate Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Jamaat-led 11-party alliance candidate Col (retd) Oli Ahmad valid for the presidential election. Around 11:45am, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin announced the validity of Fakhrul's nomination paper after scrutiny at the CEC's conference room in Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shafiqur calls for special parliament session amid energy crisis:** Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Shafiqur Rahman urged the president yesterday to convene a special session of parliament to discuss the country's ongoing power and energy crisis and deterioration in the overall socio-economic and law-and-order situation. **He made the request in a letter sent to the president, said Jamaat-e-Islami in a press release.** Copies of the letter were also sent to the prime minister and the Parliament Secretariat. In the letter, Shafiqur Rahman said the country was experiencing a severe power crisis, with persistent load-shedding making people's lives miserable and severely affecting industrial production, businesses and trade. He also claimed that the power and energy crisis had contributed to rising prices of essential commodities and a serious deterioration in the law-and-order situation, leaving people facing "extreme uncertainty". "As representatives of the people, we cannot remain silent during this crisis," the opposition leader said. He said meaningful discussions in parliament and immediate solutions were essential to addressing the situation (*The Daily Star*, [15 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **180-day assessment: Govt passes itself with flying colours:** The BNP government has restored economic stability and made progress in several development and social welfare programmes during its first 180 days in power, according to its own assessment. **Political analysts, however, said despite the government making progress in various sectors, its overall performance still falls short of expectations. They raised concerns over law and order, the energy situation, partisan appointments, weak coordination, poor priority-setting, and controversies involving several ministers and state ministers.** Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, an adviser to the prime minister, said at a press briefing yesterday that the government had mostly fulfilled its electoral pledges in its first six months (*The Daily Star*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh gets little public feedback on draft law to replace RAB with Special Response Battalion:** A draft law aimed at overhauling the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) into a new entity named the Special Response Battalion (SRB) has drawn negligible public response despite being open for feedback. The home ministry published the draft, titled the Special Response Battalion (SRB) Act, 2026, on its website on Aug 4, inviting comments through an email address. By Thursday, only three people had responded in 10 days. **A home ministry official said the three submissions covered almost every aspect of the draft, with suggestions to add some provisions and remove others.** The ministry's Law Division is working on the draft. Additional Secretary Mohammad Mofizur Rahman said the government would review public feedback as the legislative process progressed. After the draft is finalised, the opinions of several ministries and departments would be sought before it is placed before the cabinet. If approved, it would then be tabled in parliament (*bdnews24.com*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Legal notice seeks travel ban on Prof Yunus:** A Supreme Court lawyer has served a legal notice on the concerned government agencies asking them to impose an international travel ban on former interim government chief, Prof Muhammad Yunus. Barrister M Ashraful Islam has sent the legal notices, he confirmed on Sunday. It asked a travel ban on the Nobel Laureate for his involvement in handing over measles vaccine management tasks to the private sector from the domain of government entities. **This year, following the resignation of the interim government, the acute shortage of the measles vaccines has caused the deaths of around 908 children so far. Experts have put the blame on vaccine procurement and storage irregularities during the tenure of the interim government and the Awami League authoritarian regime** (*Daily Sun*, [17 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Singapore interested in Bangladesh's Bay Terminal project:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Thursday said Singapore has long had a proposal for a Bay Terminal at Chittagong Port, which came up for discussion during her recent visit to the country. "You know that the Singapore government has had a proposal for a Bay Terminal at our Chittagong Port for a long time. They have talked about that," she told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Shama Obaed said they also visited one of the projects where they have a waste-to-energy, and they have shown how they produce energy by managing waste. During her first official visit to Singapore, the state minister met Singapore's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and its State Minister for Foreign Affairs Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim separately and discussed issues of mutual interest (*Dhaka Tribune*, [13 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM apologises for power crisis, says rebuilding takes time:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Saturday apologised to the people for the ongoing power and gas shortages and assured that his government was taking urgent steps to ease the crisis, expressing hope that the gas situation would improve significantly within the next few days. Speaking at an event in Dhaka-17's Mohakhali Wireless TNT field, which featured a prayer session and the presentation of financial aid, Tarique called on critical opposition parties to offer practical strategies rather than spreading public uncertainty. Organised by local BNP affiliate groups, the gathering commemorated the 81st anniversary of former prime minister and party chairperson Khaleda Zia, during which 682 vulnerable individuals received cheques. **Tarique attributed the current fuel shortages to the nation's restricted capacity for storing and regasifying imported liquefied natural gas (LNG). He criticised the previous regime's 17-year failure to seek out new domestic gas reserves, a neglect that left Bangladesh heavily reliant on overseas energy supplies** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Main work of Teesta Master Plan to visibly start next year:** Disaster Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu has said that the main work of the Teesta Master Plan (TMP) will visibly start from next year after completing the necessary technical tests and inspections. "The government is moving ahead in a planned manner to ensure long-term and sustainable development around Teesta River," he said. He said this in response to questions from journalists after laying the foundation stone of a bridge over the Saniajan River in the Kuchlibari area of Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat on this afternoon. The minister said that there will be no rush in implementing such a big project like the Teesta Master Plan to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness. "The highest importance is being given to ensuring that public money is not wasted and that the project remains effective in the long term. For this, all concerned will have to be patient," he said. Highlighting the need for the Teesta Master Plan, he said, Teesta is deeply connected to the livelihood and economy of the people of the northern region (*BSS News*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mongla economic zone to create 60,000 jobs in two phases, says shipping minister:** Road Transport and Bridges, Railways and Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam has said the first phase of work on the Mongla Economic Zone will begin in October, creating around 25,000 jobs. **Speaking at a reception organized by the Mongla Municipal BNP at Mongla Bus Stand on Sunday afternoon, the minister said employment would rise to about 60,000 once the second phase is launched. He stressed the need for uninterrupted power and energy supplies to support industrialization in Mongla. In this connection, he said the possibility of supplying gas through a 23-kilometre pipeline from an area near Akram Point was under discussion.** The minister also said construction of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the Mongla River was progressing. He said coordinated development of the bridge, Mongla Economic Zone, Mongla Port and energy infrastructure could bring significant economic transformation to Mongla and the wider southwestern region (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh has stable, investment-friendly environment for foreign investors, says commerce minister:** Bangladesh is currently a "promising destination" for investment, and necessary facilities have been ensured for foreign investors to repatriate their investments and profits to their home countries, says Khandakar Abdul Muktadir. "Bangladesh has a stable and investment-friendly environment for international investors," he said. The commerce minister made the remarks during a meeting with Diana Mikėvičienė, Lithuania's non-resident ambassador to Bangladesh, at the Secretariat on Sunday, according to a press release from the Ministry of Commerce. **The meeting discussed new opportunities for joint cooperation in**

information technology, cybersecurity and fintech, as well as ways to expand commercial ties between the two countries. The commerce minister said that although the current volume of trade between Bangladesh and Lithuania is limited, there is significant scope for expanding cooperation between the two countries (*bdnews24.com*, [16 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Thailand eyes FTA, shipping link to cut transit to 3-5 days:** Thailand is pushing to revive free trade agreement negotiations with Bangladesh while working on a direct maritime route that could slash shipping time between the two countries from around two weeks to as little as three to five days, Thai Ambassador Thitiporn Chirasawadi said. The proposed route would connect Thailand's Ranong Port with Chittagong through the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, bypassing the longer existing route through the Strait of Malacca. During a visit to the Dhaka Tribune and Bangla Tribune offices on Sunday, the ambassador said the two initiatives could strengthen trade and supply-chain connectivity at a time of growing global uncertainty. **The connectivity push comes as the two countries seek to address a significant trade imbalance.** Bilateral trade currently stands at around \$1 billion, with Bangladesh importing approximately \$900 million worth of goods from Thailand while exporting considerably less. **The two sides also explored whether Thailand could share expertise from Bangkok's canal and waterway management as Bangladesh seeks to restore Dhaka's canals and develop circular waterways.** The meeting concluded with discussions on greater media cooperation and news exchange between Bangladesh and Thailand (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Turkmenistan offers energy support as Dhaka deepens ties:** Turkmenistan has expressed interest in supporting Bangladesh's energy security as the two countries agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, energy and other potential sectors. The interest was conveyed during political consultations between Bangladesh and Turkmenistan held in Ashgabat on Saturday, according to a foreign ministry press release received here today. Ambassador Dr M Nazrul Islam, Secretary (Bilateral-East and West) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Turkmenistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmet Gurbanov led their respective delegations at the consultations. The two sides identified significant untapped potential in bilateral relations and discussed the entire gamut of cooperation, attaching high priority to expanding trade, investment and economic ties (*BSS News*, [16 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **PM Tarique likely to make maiden India visit on Aug 22-23 as preparations gather pace:** Preparations are quietly but steadily under way for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to make his maiden visit to India as early as next week, official sources in Dhaka say. The likely dates for the visit are Aug 22-23, according to diplomatic and political sources, although the schedule has yet to be formally announced. **The planned bilateral trip is being viewed as a significant step towards normalising relations between the two neighbours, with energy, trade, connectivity and border management expected to be high on the agenda.** India has extended two invitations to the prime minister — one for a bilateral visit and another to attend a multilateral summit. Tarique has been invited to the summit in his capacity as the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Indian broadcaster NDTV has also reported that the Bangladesh premier could travel to India well ahead of a planned BRICS outreach summit in September. **The development comes after Tarique met the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka last week. Diplomatic sources suggest the meeting may have helped pave the way for the prime minister to consider a short visit to India** (*bdnews24.com*, [14 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Will let the media know about progress on Tarique visit, says Delhi:** Despite reports of preparations for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's possible visit to New Delhi next week, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs has not confirmed it. **In a briefing on Friday, ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, as he has done previously, that he would “let [the media] know if there is any progress” regarding the Bangladesh premier’s visit to Delhi. Diplomatic and political sources in Dhaka and Delhi say that preparations are under way for Tarique’s first visit to India next week, ahead of the BIMSTEC summit in Delhi.** These sources say that the likely date of the prime minister's visit could be Aug 22-23, exactly a week after India's Independence Day. **The Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs have not yet made any official announcement on the matter. Officials have declined to speak on the meeting on the record. However, Indian media outlets have also started publishing reports on Tarique's possible visit** (*bdnews24.com*, [14 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **India’s 80th Independence Day celebrated at its high commission in Dhaka:** India’s 80th Independence Day was celebrated at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on Saturday, with the national flag hoisted in the morning in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi. Speaking at the event, Trivedi said the independence struggles of India and Bangladesh were deeply intertwined. “Built on this strong foundation of shared history, mutual respect and partnership, ties between the two countries continue to grow,” he said, adding that India and Bangladesh were advancing cooperation in key areas including trade, connectivity, security and healthcare. He said people-to-people ties, based on shared aspirations and mutual goodwill, remained the true foundation of the enduring friendship between the two countries. **“Looking ahead, let us reaffirm our commitment to India’s continued progress, unity and prosperity,” he said. “Let us also work hand in hand towards shared prosperity and further strengthen the extraordinary bond of friendship between India and Bangladesh,” Trivedi added.** As part of the Independence Day celebrations, officials and staff of the Indian High Commission also conducted a cleanliness drive around the mission. Indian nationals residing in Bangladesh, officials of the High Commission and diplomats from various countries attended the program (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladeshis hold more favorable view of India than vice versa:** A recent opinion survey reveals that Bangladeshis hold a significantly more positive view of India than Indians do of Bangladesh. While 42% of Bangladeshi adults view India favorably, only 25% of Indian adults share a positive view of Bangladesh, according to Washington-based organization, the Pew Research Center. Despite this gap, favorable ratings in both neighboring nations have dropped over the last two years. In 2024, India's favorability in Bangladesh stood at 57%, while Bangladesh's favorability in India was 35%. While the drops are mutual, a greater percentage of Bangladeshis continue to hold favorable views on India than Indian’s viewing Bangladesh positively. **The survey, conducted from February 8 to May 7, 2026, across Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, examined how people in the four countries view one another.** The survey interviewed 1,044 people in Bangladesh, 3,566 in India, 1,039 in Pakistan and 2,513 in Sri Lanka. Many people express a favorable view of Pakistan in Sri Lanka (57%) and Bangladesh (54%), while very few in India do the same (8%). **Of the four countries Pew asked about, India has the broadest range in favorability. An overwhelming majority of Sri Lankans express a positive view of India, compared with 42% of Bangladeshis and 7% of Pakistanis** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dhaka seeks propitious environment for PM’s Delhi visit:** An environment propitious to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s visit to India needs to be created. To this end, **Bangladesh has urged the Indian authorities to swiftly return former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and**

other fugitive criminals under the bilateral extradition treaty, and to hand over to Bangladesh the alleged killers accused in the murder of Shaheed Sharif Osman Hadi. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson AKM Shahidul Karim made the remarks at a press briefing on Sunday afternoon. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, "We are waiting for their (India's) response. Bangladesh and India have been in touch with each other for several weeks on the possibility of a bilateral visit by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to India." However, this process was vitiated by the open press interaction in New Delhi on 5 August by Sheikh Hasina, who has been convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal for committing crimes against humanity. "We have made our position clear on this matter. We are of the view that a propitious environment needs to be created for the visit," said AKM Shahidul Karim. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson further said, "To this end, we have requested the Indian authorities to expeditiously act on our request to extradite Sheikh Hasina and other fugitive criminals and to hand over to Bangladesh the accused killers of Shahid Sharif Osman Hadi in compliance with our bilateral extradition treaty, we are awaiting their response." "We reiterate that we'll continue to pursue our Bangladesh first policy to promote friendly bilateral relations with other countries, including our neighbours, on the basis of sovereign equality, national dignity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit," added the Foreign Ministry official (*Prothom Alo*, [16 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **India courts to decide on Hasina's extradition: Indian media:** The Indian judiciary, rather than the government, will ultimately decide on Bangladesh's request for the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, The Indian Express reported on Sunday. Citing senior Indian government officials, the newspaper said such requests must be considered and decided by the Indian judiciary. According to the report, Delhi and Dhaka are holding discussions to move away from what India views as a 'maximalist position'. **'The decision to extradite will finally be taken by our courts; it will not be a political or diplomatic decision,' a senior Indian official told The Indian Express.** The official added that the court would have to determine whether the alleged crimes constitute offences under Indian law. Indian foreign ministry officials told the newspaper that Bangladesh's extradition request includes the required legal documents under the 2013 India-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty. **An Indian official also said Hasina had indicated she planned to return to Bangladesh in December, while acknowledging that the extradition issue remains part of ongoing diplomatic exchanges between Delhi and Dhaka** (*New Age*, [16 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh PM's visit to India should take place much sooner: Dinesh Trivedi:** Reiterating his optimism about addressing any issue through top-level meetings and interactions, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Sunday night said he remains very hopeful that a visit to India by Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman "should take place much sooner." "Issues can only be sorted out by meeting, and I am very hopeful," he said, noting that hearts are very close and that he wants to see a golden chapter in Bangladesh-India relations. Speaking at a welcome dinner hosted by Masud Jamil Khan, Honorary Consul of Ireland in Bangladesh, and his wife Kate Jaro Khan in Baridhara, the High Commissioner said Bangladesh and India do not only share a border; they really share a dream. The Indian envoy said Bangladesh and India are two sovereign countries. **"We have our challenges. There is no doubt about it. And if you do not have challenges, that is not democracy. No matter how chaotic is democracy....."** He also said, "We need our space. We have our differences. We have our arguments. That's okay. But as long as our goals are the same, that we want people, not only of these two countries, but all over the world, you have dignity, respect, mutual respect for

each other. And that's what we strive for. And I sincerely wish.....My very objective is to have a golden period between India and Bangladesh” (Daily Sun, [17 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Hasina fallout blocks PM's India visit:** The government has postponed Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's bilateral visit to New Delhi over the fallout from deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's 5 August media event. **Dhaka has clarified its position on the trip, which was being prepared after weeks of talks, saying that a conducive environment needs to be created before the visit can take place. Former diplomats have welcomed the decision, saying a prime ministerial visit should produce concrete outcomes rather than merely serve as a symbolic engagement. They identified the extradition of Hasina and other convicted fugitives, water-sharing disputes and border tensions as some of the major bilateral issues that need to be addressed through meaningful negotiations. The presence and political activities of Sheikh Hasina in India have emerged as a major irritant in Bangladesh-India relations. Bangladesh has repeatedly requested her extradition, but there has so far been little visible movement from New Delhi. India has maintained that the matter is under consideration and is primarily a legal issue, while no formal request has yet been placed before an Indian court for a decision** (Daily Times of Bangladesh, [17 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Businessman flies to Delhi with 31 live rounds after passing through Dhaka airport security:** Serious questions have been raised over security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after a businessman allegedly managed to board a flight to Delhi with a bag containing 31 live rounds of ammunition. The bag reportedly belonged to Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan, chairman of Ashiyan Group, and passed through several layers of security at the Dhaka airport without the ammunition being detected. **The incident has prompted the airport authorities to launch an investigation into how the ammunition passed through heavy-luggage screening, check-in, immigration and the final security check before boarding** (Daily Sun, [14 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB foils BSF push-in bid through Maheshpur border:** Border Guard Bangladesh has foiled another attempt by India's Border Security Force to push four people into Bangladesh through the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah. **According to the BGB, a patrol team from Kusumpur BOP intercepted four people near the zero line as the BSF attempted to push them into Bangladesh from India. The attempt was reportedly made by the Mahendra Camp of BSF's 194 Battalion. The four people included two men, a woman and a child. Their identities were not immediately known. As of the latest information, they were staying about 150 yards inside Indian territory from the zero line.** BGB officials said the matter had already been brought to the attention of the commander of the BSF's 194 Battalion (New Age, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB seizes Indian tapentadol, Phensedyl and liquor in Naogaon:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized Indian drugs and liquor worth Tk28,700 from a border area in Naogaon on Saturday night. **The seized items included 110 Indian tapentadol tablets, 23 bottles of Phensedyl and two bottles of liquor, according to a BGB press release issued on Sunday.** Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of Naogaon Battalion (16 BGB) led by Subedar Sheikh Abdul Jabbar conducted a raid in the Balashahid area of Porsha upazila at around 10:40pm. During the operation, the team recovered the narcotics in an abandoned condition about 50 yards inside Bangladesh from Border Pillar No. 230/45-R. Naogaon Battalion Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Ariful Islam Masum said BGB would continue its operations

to prevent illegal border crossings, cattle smuggling, drug trafficking and other forms of smuggling along the Naogaon-Chapainawabganj border (*Daily Sun*, [16 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Police says Neo-JMB network behind series of bomb recoveries in Savar:** Law enforcement agencies have uncovered new information about a suspected network of the banned militant group Neo-JMB following a series of bomb and explosive recoveries in Savar, with investigators finding possible links among several recent incidents. Investigators said members of the group allegedly used lesser-known digital platforms for communication and financial transactions. The information came during the questioning of Mohammad Arif, a suspected Neo-JMB member arrested from Hemayetpur in Savar on Tuesday. **According to investigators, Arif told police that members of the group used a website called “Protected Text” (PT) for communication and an app called “Element” for financial transactions. CTTC officials said the suspected members also appeared to have similar movement patterns. They allegedly carried backpacks containing weapons and explosive devices, according to investigators** (*Daily Sun*, [14 August 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [14 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Remote-controlled bombs now in the hands of militants:** In the wake of the recovery of several bombs in Dhaka and on its outskirts in recent days, police say militants have now started making remote-controlled bombs. Police also recovered a remote device from a pressure-cooker bomb thrown at a tea shop in Ashulia. Two weeks later, they said another pressure-cooker bomb found in a field in Bangram Union in Savar was also remote-controlled. **One possible source for this development is Nazmul Hasan aka "Bomaru" (Bomber) Mamun.** Police officials say he was trained by bomb makers who were part of the neo-Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (neo-JMB). Mamun used to make pressure cooker and pipe bombs 10 years ago. Police said at the time that the 2017 bomb blast at Hotel Olio, which resulted in the death of a “suicide bomber”, was caused by two pressure cooker bombs made by Mamun. In that period, a series of operations killed the alleged neo-JMB bomb makers. Mamun had been in prison since then, but was released after the Awami League government fell amid a mass uprising in August 2024. Officials say he put together another team and started making bombs again. Now the matter of remote control being added to pressure cooker bombs has raised fresh concerns for police (*bdnews24.com*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Myanmar disputes over 1m Rohingya figure, rejects refugees’ origin claims:** Myanmar has rejected claims that more than one million Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh were displaced from Rakhine State, while also disputing that all those in the camps originated from Myanmar and refusing to recognize the Rohingya ethnic identity. **In a statement issued on Saturday, Myanmar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs challenged widely reported accounts of the Rohingya crisis, describing international media coverage of refugees in Cox’s Bazar and people fleeing by boat to other countries as “one-sided” and based on what it called misinformation and disinformation. The statement repeatedly referred to the Rohingya as “Bengalis” and said the description of more than one million people as displaced from Rakhine State was inaccurate.** According to figures presented by Myanmar, more than 740,000 Rohingya lived in Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships before violence erupted in 2016 and 2017. It claimed more than 200,000 subsequently remained in those areas while over 540,000 crossed into Bangladesh. On that basis, Naypyidaw disputed the figure of more than one million displaced people from Rakhine State. **Myanmar also rejected claims that all refugees currently living in camps in Bangladesh originated from its territory.** It further

rejected descriptions of Rohingya fleeing by boat to other countries as originating from Myanmar, arguing that the ethnic identity used to describe them “has never existed in Myanmar.” The statement came as Myanmar outlined its position on the stalled repatriation of Rohingya refugees and defended its handling of the crisis (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Kosovo reaffirm strong opposition to all forms of transnational crimes:** Recognizing their common commitment to peace, stability, and international security, Bangladesh and Kosovo have reaffirmed their strong opposition to terrorism, violent extremism, and all forms of transnational crime. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect, shared values, common interests, and the principles of international law. The issues of mutual interest were discussed at the second Foreign Office Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of the Republic of Kosovo held in Prishtina recently (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, IOM sign project to combat cyber-enabled human trafficking:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM-UN Migration) and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance have signed a 24-month project to strengthen Bangladesh's efforts to prevent and respond to human trafficking facilitated through digital technologies. The project, titled “Countering Cyber-Enabled Human Trafficking Through Technology,” is funded by the IOM Development Fund and will be implemented by IOM Bangladesh in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The project aims to support longer-term efforts to prevent cyber-enabled human trafficking in Bangladesh. Its findings and training resources are expected to contribute to future policy and program development and strengthen existing national and inter-agency efforts to combat trafficking (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 August 2026](#)).

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