

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

29 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **PM adviser says Legal action may be taken for allegations pre- or post-presidency:** Legal action can be taken against a president if there are allegations concerning the period before or after holding office, though they remain immune while in post, stated Prime Minister's Adviser on Information and Broadcasting, Zahed Ur Rahman. The adviser made these remarks today, Tuesday, at a regular press conference held at the Secretariat to highlight the government's activities, in response to journalists' questions regarding immediate past president Mohammed Shahabuddin. However, he clarified that his reply was not specific to former president Mohammed Shahabuddin, but applies to any president. **Responding to a query on whether former president Mohammed Shahabuddin had been granted immunity, PM's Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said, "There is some confusion surrounding the matter of immunity. A person holding the office of the President in Bangladesh will not face legal proceedings during their tenure. However, when they are no longer in office—and I am not speaking specifically about this president (former president Mohammed Shahabuddin), but any president (*Prothom Alo*, [28 July 2026](#)).**
- ◆ **CEC says presidential election timeline yet to be finalised after acting speaker talks:** Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin has said initial discussions on the presidential election have taken place, though specific dates for the ballot remain undecided. **On Tuesday, after a one-hour meeting with the acting speaker at the parliament complex, he said the schedule would be announced once it is finalised.** "The law requires fixing the date for the presidential election after consultation with the speaker of parliament. That is why we held a detailed preliminary discussion with the acting speaker," Nasir said. **Replying to a question, the CEC said the Election Commission is "fully prepared" for the presidential election (*bdnews24.com*, [28 July 2026](#)).**
- ◆ **New presidential election likely in August, discussions focus entirely on Fakhrul:** The government is considering holding the country's next presidential election as early as August. According to a high-level source in the government, the election may be completed during the second or third week of August without waiting for the next session of Parliament. However, no formal announcement has been made on the matter yet. **Relevant sources claim that discussions regarding the upcoming presidential election are underway within the decision-making tiers of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). According to them, while several names were previously under consideration, the party's Secretary General, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, has now emerged as the primary contender.** He is currently the main subject of discussion both within and outside the party. Nevertheless, no formal decision has been reached by the BNP Standing Committee so far. Party sources suggest several factors weigh in Mirza Fakhrul's favour. **His service as BNP Secretary General for over a decade, his success in keeping the party united through challenging political periods, his clean political image, and his acceptability beyond party lines have placed him at the forefront of potential**

candidates. Several prominent figures, including Professor Asif Nazrul, former law adviser to the interim government, have publicly endorsed him as a suitable candidate for the presidency. However, should Mirza Fakhrul be elected President, several organisational changes will be required within the party and the government. In that event, he would have to step down from his role as Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives. Additionally, new leadership would need to be appointed for the post of BNP Secretary General (*Prothom Alo*, [29 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Islami Andolan demands to elect next president in line with July Charter:** Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) has demanded that the election of a new president be held in line with the provisions of the July Charter, on which political parties reached a consensus. "The July Uprising took place with the expectation of dismantling the old order and running the country under a new arrangement. Some of those aspirations have been reflected in the July Charter," IAB Secretary General Maulana Gazi Ataur Rahman said while addressing the Patuakhali district conference of the party as the chief guest at the district Shilpakala Academy. "Therefore, the election of a new president must be held in accordance with the provisions of the charter on which all parties reached a consensus regarding the appointment of the president," he added. **He said the constitution should be amended at the beginning of the next parliamentary session, if necessary, after which the presidential election should be held under the revised constitutional framework. "If the president is elected under the old arrangement on the excuse that the constitution has not been amended, it would go against the spirit of the July Uprising," he said** (*The Daily Star*, [28 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Dr Zahed stresses probing controversial elections:** Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman today stressed the need for investigations into controversial elections, including the 2008 general election. "There is a need for a proper and impartial investigation into all the controversial elections of the past, including the 2008 general election," he told a press briefing. The weekly press briefing was held at the conference room of the Press Information Department (PID). **Responding to a question, the information adviser said although many people have a positive perception of the 2008 election, various statistics have shown that thousands of votes were cast in less than a minute at many polling centres. "So, there needs to be a proper probe into each of the elections held in 2008, 2014 and 2018. The night-time irregularities in the elections pushed the country's governance and democracy to the brink of utter destruction," he said. Referring to the unprecedented fraud committed during the 2018 election, Dr Zahed said it is important to take various legal measures, including criminal action, against the officials or individuals involved in electoral offences. At the same time, he said, if justice is not ensured over the 2018 election, it will set a bad precedent in the country** (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).

❖ **High Court rejects petition challenging ICT Act's legality:** The High Court has dismissed a writ petition challenging the legality of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. The order came on Tuesday from a bench of Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury and Justice Md Ziaul Haque. Supreme Court lawyer Md Mohsen Rashid, who also heads a faction of the Bangladesh Muslim League, filed the petition on Jun 24, naming two secretaries of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs as respondents. **The petition described the 1973 law as obsolete, ineffective and a tool for political persecution or "judicial murder".** He said the law had been enacted in a specific historical context to prosecute 195 Pakistani prisoners of war accused of genocide, murder and rape during Bangladesh's Liberation War. Parliament

amended Article 47(3) of the Constitution on Jul 15, 1973, and enacted the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act five days later for that purpose. According to Mohsin, the 1974 Delhi Agreement, following the Simla Agreement, led to the unconditional repatriation and pardon of those prisoners of war. As a result, he argued, the original purpose of the law no longer existed and its legal basis had effectively ended. He also argued that the then Awami League government had used the law after 2009 to prosecute Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and that it was now being used against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina over the events of 2024. "If the law remains in force, it could similarly be used against any future ruling party," he said (*bdnews24.com*, [28 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Jamaat slams govt over 'politicised' EC, BIDA appointments:** Jamaat-e-Islami has demanded the immediate cancellation of decision to appoint Shamsul Alam as an additional secretary to Election Commission (EC) Secretariat on a one-year contractual basis. The demand was made by Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar during a press conference addressing contemporary political issues held on Tuesday at the capital's Moghbazar. **He said the appointment of a politically-affiliated individual to a sensitive institution like Election Commission would undermine the commission's neutrality.** He further said that such a move would create public doubt regarding the upcoming local government elections. **Porwar also criticised the government for allegedly making appointments based on party considerations across various constitutional, autonomous, and government institutions. He specifically highlighted the appointment of individuals associated with BNP to several bodies, including Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Moheshkhali Development Authority, and NGO Affairs Bureau.** Speaking on the second anniversary of July mass uprising, he questioned whether the country is progressing towards the promised discrimination-free state or reverting to old political cultures. **The appointments mirrored the politicisation seen during the Awami League's tenure, Porwar alleged, adding, "Only the names have changed; the character has not."** He also said that the government was appointing BNP leaders and activists to city corporations, district councils, development authorities and autonomous bodies instead of holding local government elections. **"Although the BNP's slogan is 'Bangladesh First', its actions suggest 'BNP First' has become the priority,"** he said (*Times of Bangladesh*, [29 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [28 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Two RU students held in BCL case:** Police have shown two Rajshahi University (RU) students arrested in a case over the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League's alleged terrorist activities after they were accused of intimidating a female student and were later "assaulted" by RUCSU General Secretary Salahuddin Ammar and several activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir in a series of violent confrontations on campus. The two students, Md Anas and Mahmudul Hasan, both from the university's History Department, were detained by Motihar thana police on Monday night. **Motihar police station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Golam Kabir said on Tuesday that they had been shown arrested in a previously filed case concerning the banned Chhatra League's alleged terrorist activities.** "They are currently undergoing treatment. Steps are being taken to send them to jail through the court," the OC said. **Witnesses alleged that RUCSU and Chhatra Shibir activists entered the reading room and assaulted the three students. Several other students were also injured while trying to stop the attack. Allegations also emerged that the injured students were assaulted again while being taken to hospital before teachers, police, the proctorial body and students restored order.** Following the violence, RUCSU and Chhatra Shibir leaders demonstrated outside the university administration building, demanding action against students allegedly linked to the banned

Chhatra League. After a meeting with the administration, it was decided that students found involved with the banned organisation would be arrested and that an impartial committee would investigate the assaults. **Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu) Vice-President Mostakur Rahman Zahid has threatened action against journalists and media outlets over reports on an assault on the university campus yesterday, accusing them of portraying Rucsu and Islami Chhatra Shibir in a negative light. Speaking at a press conference at the Rucsu office this evening, Zahid alleged that sections of the media had reported the incident in a "one-sided manner" and "defended" the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League** (*Daily Sun*, [29 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [28 July 2026](#)).

◆ **NCP suspends today's 'July March' in Moulvibazar after Habiganj attack:** The National Citizen Party (NCP) has suspended the next legs of its "July March" campaign scheduled for today in Moulvibazar's Rajnagar and Kulaura following an alleged attack on a convoy carrying its senior leaders in Habiganj. NCP Central Joint Member Secretary Pritam Das said they will hold a procession and rally in Habiganj town instead at 3:00pm today. According to him, senior leaders including Nahid Islam, Nasiruddin Patwary, Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah are expected to attend the rally. **The attack occurred yesterday afternoon after an NCP procession in Habiganj town. A convoy carrying Nasiruddin and Sarjis was attacked, leaving at least 15 party leaders, activists and journalists injured, according to the party** (*The Daily Star*, [29 July 2026](#); *Times of Bangladesh*, [28 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Section 144 imposed in Habiganj amid NCP-Chhatra Dal standoff:** The district administration has imposed Section 144 in the Habiganj municipal area, following announcements of counter-programmes by National Citizen Party (NCP) and Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal. The order, signed by District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner GM Sarfaraz on Wednesday, comes into effect at 3pm Wednesday and will remain in force until further notice. According to the official notification, the NCP had scheduled a protest rally at the Habiganj Pourashava field to condemn attacks on its central leaders. Simultaneously, the Habiganj district unit of the Chhatra Dal, along with the Habiganj Sadar Upazila and Municipal units of the BNP, announced counter-protest rallies and sit-in programmes at the same time and venue. The administration expressed concerns that the gathering of a large number of activists from rival sides could lead to tension, clashes, and a significant deterioration of law and order. To ensure public safety and maintain peace, the District Magistrate prohibited all meetings, processions, and the gathering of five or more people within the municipal limits (*Times of Bangladesh*, [29 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Local govt election: Jamaat seeks retaining MPO-listed teachers' eligibility, to raise issue with EC:** Jamaat-e-Islami will meet the election commission (EC) today, Wednesday, to present several demands, including retaining the eligibility of teachers at MPO-listed educational institutions to contest local government elections. The party argues that, under the existing law, MPO-listed teachers may resign from their jobs and contest local government elections. However, it believes that the recommendation to abolish this provision could undermine citizens' constitutional political rights. According to Jamaat sources, a party delegation will meet the EC at the EC headquarters in Agargaon, Dhaka, on Wednesday. Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar will lead the delegation. **Party sources said the delegation will also demand the cancellation of the contractual appointment of Md Shamsul Alam as additional secretary to the Election Commission Secretariat, alongside calling for**

the retention of MPO-listed teachers' right to participate in local government elections (Prothom Alo, [29 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **CCEA recommends 3 proposals related to energy sector:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recommended policy approval for three energy-related proposals aimed at ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply and strengthening the country's energy infrastructure. The approvals came from the 23rd meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in this year held today at the Cabinet Division Conference Room at Bangladesh Secretariat with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair. **According to the Cabinet Division, the committee recommended policy approval for a proposal from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division to revise the tender preparation and submission timeline for importing refined fuel oil by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) through open international tender.** Under the proposal, the tender preparation and submission period for refined fuel imports during September-December 2026 will be reduced from the existing 42 days to a shorter period of 21 days to facilitate timely procurement and ensure uninterrupted fuel supply. **The committee also recommended policy approval for processing a proposal submitted by China National Energy Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd. (CNEE) for the establishment of the Kutubjom Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar** (BSS News, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway among world's costliest, lags in infrastructure standards:** Bangladesh's under-construction Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway has emerged as one of the world's most expensive elevated highways in terms of construction cost per kilometre, despite offering fewer infrastructure features than comparable projects in other countries, according to transport experts. Bangladesh is currently constructing two elevated expressways. **The country's first, the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, is being implemented under a public-private partnership (PPP), while the second, the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway, is being financed through foreign loans.** The 24km Dhaka-Ashulia project has an estimated cost of Tk27,046 crore, translating into Tk1,127 crore per kilometre, placing it among the most expensive elevated expressway projects globally. The Development Project Proposal (DPP) was approved in 2017, while the commercial loan agreement with the Chinese contractor was signed in mid-2022 before construction began. **Despite the high cost, transport infrastructure experts argue that the project falls short of international standards in terms of engineering quality, environmental safeguards and long-term sustainability** (Daily Sun, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CPB accuses govt of LNG import conspiracy amid gas crisis:** CPB has accused the government of failing to take effective measures to resolve prevailing gas crisis. Central and local leaders of the party expressed their grievances during a rally organised by CPB Dhaka Metropolitan South District Committee in front of Mukti Bhaban in Purana Paltan on Tuesday. Addressing the gathering, CPB President Kazi Sajjad Zahir Chandan said although a severe gas crisis is disrupting public life across the country, the government is not taking prompt action. **He alleged that pressure is being exerted by the United States for long-term LNG imports. Chandan also added concern that the recent fire at floating LNG terminal in Moheshkhali might be linked to a conspiracy surrounding these imports.** CPB president demanded immediate repair of

damaged terminal, a neutral investigation into the accident, and strengthening of domestic energy sector (*Times of Bangladesh*, [28 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Left parties decry govt plan to lease 44 state-owned industries:** The Ganatantrik Jukta Front (Democratic Left Alliance) on Tuesday demanded the cancellation of the government's initiative to lease or hand over 44 state-owned industrial enterprises to the private sector under partnership arrangements, calling instead for their reopening through state-led modernisation. **The alliance of left leaning political parties alleged that the government was trying to transfer state assets to private business groups on the pretext of recurring losses, warning that the move would undermine national interests and employment.** On June 20, prime minister Tarique Rahman met investors, government agencies and relevant ministries and decided to allow domestic and foreign investors to revive 44 state-owned factories through public-private partnerships, joint ventures, long-term leases or outright acquisition. Following the meeting, the BIDA unveiled a portfolio of 44 investment opportunities on July 6, covering more than 10,000 acres of industrial land. Addressing the rally, Sonar Bangla Party president and Ganatantrik Jukta Front central leader Syed Harun Rashid alleged that the government was seeking to hand over state-owned industries to private entities through leases, public-private partnerships and strategic partnerships in the name of reopening them. **He claimed that many state-owned industries previously transferred to the private sector had never resumed production and that their land and other assets had instead been used for other purposes. He urged the government to modernise and reopen the factories under state ownership instead of transferring them to private operators** (*New Age*, [29 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **PM Tarique seeks Malaysia's support to tackle gas crisis:** Amid an ongoing gas crisis, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has spoken to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim over the phone after sending a letter seeking Malaysia's cooperation in the energy sector, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Hasan Amit said on Tuesday. Tarique held the conversation with Anwar at 2pm Bangladesh time after sending the letter on Monday, Amit told reporters at his office. **Following the call, the Malaysian prime minister assured Tarique of extending support after consulting the relevant authorities in his country, the state minister said.** "The letter was handed over to the Malaysian prime minister today by Prime Minister's Adviser on Education, Primary and Mass Education Mahdi Amin," Amit said. He said the government was working round the clock to address the energy crisis, as the shortage has created difficulties for households, industries and power generation. "The government understands people's suffering caused by the energy crisis. Addressing this crisis is our priority," Amit said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Malaysia eye stronger cooperation in agriculture sector:** Bangladesh and Malaysia's Sarawak state have discussed strengthening cooperation in agriculture, particularly in agricultural technology and food security, alongside initiating a process to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the sector. **During the meeting, the two sides explored potential areas of agricultural cooperation, with particular emphasis on sharing experience, expertise and technology.** The discussions focused on cooperation in rice production and livestock development as well as ways to enhance trade and investment between Bangladesh and Sarawak. The two sides also discussed the process of drafting a MoU on

agricultural cooperation to provide a framework for expanding collaboration in the sector (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Chinese envoy says Beijing is willing to elevate cultural ties with Bangladesh:** Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Yao Wen today expressed Beijing's willingness to work hand in hand with Bangladesh to elevate cultural exchanges to a higher level as he met Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury and State Minister Ali Newaz Mahmood Khyom here. A Chinese embassy statement issued following the meeting said the envoy called "cultural exchanges as an integral part of China-Bangladesh relations" as he held in-depth discussions on ways to further strengthen exchanges in the arena. **The Bangladesh side appreciated the envoy's approach and noted cultural exchanges between the two countries in recent years yielded fruitful outcomes and expressed willingness to further deepen cooperation in this area. The two sides also discussed strengthening experience-sharing and mutual learning as well as practical cooperation in culture and arts and the protection of intangible cultural heritage** (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).

◆ **China seeks tangible benefits through Bangladesh cooperation:** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen has reaffirmed China's commitment to supporting Bangladesh, saying Beijing will continue providing necessary assistance to ensure bilateral cooperation delivers tangible benefits to the people of both countries. "China is willing to work hand in hand with Bangladesh to turn this project into another landmark of China-Bangladesh cooperation," Yao said while inspecting the China-aid Burn Unit project at Chittagong Medical College Hospital on Monday. He said China attaches great importance to the implementation of the project and remains committed to its successful completion. **During the visit, the ambassador met Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Dr Shahadat Hossain, MP Abu Sufian, and Chittagong Medical College Hospital Director Brigadier General Mohammed Taslim. According to the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, Yao also offered "constructive suggestions" on the project's progress and held discussions with the Chinese management and technical teams** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh-China Parliamentary Friendship Group holds 1st meeting:** The first meeting of the Bangladesh-China Parliamentary Friendship Group of the 13th Parliament was held today at the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Bhaban with its Chairman Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, in the chair. Members of the committee-- Md. Shahidul Islam, MP, Md. Hasan Rajib Pradhan, MP, Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, MP, Mahamuda Habiba, MP, Mohammad Nazibur Rahman, MP, Mohammad Mosleh Uddin Farid, MP, and Md. Abul Hasnat, MP, attended the meeting. During the meeting, the members discussed the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and China and reviewed China's growing importance in the current geopolitical context. **They also held detailed discussions on further strengthening the Bangladesh-China strategic partnership, promoting bilateral exchanges of parliamentary delegations, and increasing Chinese investment to help reduce the bilateral trade imbalance** (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).

◆ **No decision yet on PM Tarique's BRICS summit attendance, Advisor Zahed says:** A decision is yet to be made on whether Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will attend next month's BRICS summit in the Indian capital, Information Advisor Zahed Ur Rahman has said. According to him, Bangladesh is not a BRICS member, but has been invited to attend as an observer, with the decision on the prime minister's attendance to come at the government level. Asked whether Bangladesh wanted to become a BRICS member, Zahed said: **"No specific decision has been**

made so far. There are thoughts of getting connected wherever multilateral platforms exist." "At one point, a government that later fled the country also considered BRICS membership. This is still under review, and we'll weigh it further." "The government will take whatever decision serves the public's interest," he added (*bdnews24.com*, [28 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Japan urged to support timely launch of HSIA third terminal:** The government has sought Japan's continued cooperation to ensure the timely opening of the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), with preparations under way to inaugurate the facility on 16 December this year. The issue was discussed during a courtesy meeting between Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam, State Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat and Japanese Prime Minister's Special Adviser Uno Yoshimasa at the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in the Bangladesh Secretariat on Tuesday (*Daily Sun*, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM urges Japan to recruit more Bangladeshi workers:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman urged Japan to recruit more skilled Bangladeshi workers while seeking more active Japanese cooperation in human resource development, skills enhancement and increased investment. He made the call when Japanese Prime Minister's Special Advisor Uno Yoshimasa paid a courtesy call on him at his Office in the Bangladesh Secretariat here this afternoon, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary (DPS) Shahadat Shadhin. Shahadat said the two sides, in the meeting, discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between Bangladesh and Japan and elevate bilateral relations to a new height. **During the meeting, the Prime Minister urged Japanese authorities to take initiatives to recruit skilled Bangladeshi healthcare workers, agricultural workers and drivers with Japanese language proficiency. He also sought greater Japanese cooperation in human resource development, skills enhancement and various other sectors** (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh invites Qatar to invest in port infrastructure dev:** Shipping, Road Transport and Bridges, and Railways Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam has invited the Qatari government to invest in Bangladesh's port infrastructure development, including terminal construction, logistics, and related sectors. He extended the invitation when Qatari Ambassador to Bangladesh Seraya Ali Al-Qahtani paid a courtesy call on the minister at his office at the Secretariat yesterday evening. During the meeting, they held fruitful discussions on port development, maritime trade, logistics, investment and various issues of mutual interest with a view to further strengthening the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Qatar. **He said the government is working to upgrade Chattogram, Mongla and Payra ports to international standards. In this context, he invited Qatar to invest in Bangladesh's port infrastructure development, terminal construction, logistics and related sectors** (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Russia keen to expand bilateral trade with Bangladesh, offers cheaper urea fertilizer:** Russia has reiterated its commitment to strengthening Bangladesh's food security and expanding bilateral trade, expressing interest in supplying urea fertilizer at a lower price alongside other essential food commodities. The issues were discussed when a Russian delegation, led by Charge d'Affaires of the Russian Federation in Bangladesh, Vyacheslav Sentyurin, made a courtesy call on Commerce, Industries, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir at his office at the Ministry of Commerce in Bangladesh Secretariat here today. The two sides reviewed the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Russia and discussed ways to further strengthen their growing economic partnership, with particular emphasis on food

security, agricultural cooperation, fertilizer supply and expansion of government-to-government (G2G) trade, said a ministry press release. **During the meeting, the Russian side expressed interest in supplying around 280,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer to the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) through JSC FEC Prodintorg under a government-to-government arrangement.** The Russian delegation said it had offered to supply urea fertilizer at US\$10 less per metric ton than the prices Bangladesh currently pays to other exporting countries. They noted that such cooperation would ensure a reliable supply of fertilizer while helping Bangladesh reduce its import costs (*BSS News*, [28 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Defence adviser calls for accurate mapping to support development, security:** Defence Adviser Brig Gen (retd) AKM Shamsul Islam on Tuesday stressed the importance of accurate and up-to-date mapping, describing it as a cornerstone of national development planning, infrastructure development, disaster management, border management and national security. He made the remarks while visiting the Bangladesh Survey Department at Tejgaon in Dhaka, where he called for **greater use of surveying and geospatial technologies to support evidence-based planning and strategic decision-making.** “Strengthen the application of surveying and geospatial knowledge in training, develop indigenous digital mapping applications, and ensure the regular collection and analysis of updated information on strategically important areas,” he said. The adviser also emphasised closer coordination among government agencies to facilitate the sharing and regular updating of geospatial information (*Daily Sun*, [28 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **142,000 arrested in nationwide special drives since May 1:** Bangladesh Police have arrested a total of 141,989 people in nationwide special operations and other law enforcement drives conducted between May 1 and July 27. **According to a statement of the Police Headquarters, of the total, 39,267 individuals were arrested in the ongoing special operation, while another 102,722 were apprehended in connection with various criminal cases and routine police operations.** During the period, police recovered a large cache of illegal weapons and explosives, including 325 firearms, 2,802 rounds of ammunition, 103 magazines, 46 crude bombs (cocktails), about 2.25 kilograms of gunpowder, 638 locally made weapons, 18 firearm components, 17 bomb- and weapon-making tools, and 10,300 chocolate bombs (*New Age*, [28 July 2026](#)).

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