

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

30 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **HRW expresses concerns over fair trial at ICT:** Bangladesh authorities are failing to uphold international legal standards at the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday. **The failures risk denying justice to victims, undermining the rule of law, falsely imprisoning political opponents, and repeating the rights violations of the past.** The New York-based rights body expressed its concerns in a statement released on its website. On 27 July, prosecutors submitted charges against 41 people for crimes against humanity and genocide. The tribunal is prosecuting individuals, including politicians, members of security forces, and even journalists, accused of serious human rights violations under former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government, which was toppled by protests in 2024 after over 15 years of increasingly authoritarian rule. **"Those responsible for the many abuses committed under the Sheikh Hasina government should be appropriately held to account, but many prosecutions are falling short of international fair trial standards,"** said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Bangladesh needs to urgently reform its criminal justice system, and the new government should ensure that there is no room for political vendettas through shoddy investigations and arbitrary allegations" (*Prothom Alo*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Police to investigate enforced disappearances; death penalty retained:** The BNP government has retained the death penalty for the crime of enforced disappearance. **The Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a draft law on the issue. However, while an ordinance promulgated by the interim government assigned the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) the responsibility for investigating enforced disappearances, the proposed law assigns that responsibility to the police. If the police refuse to accept a complaint, anyone acting on behalf of the victim may file a complaint directly before the court of the competent magistrate.** Relevant officials said an inter-ministerial meeting on the draft law is scheduled to be held today, Wednesday, at the Cabinet Division. The proposed law is expected to be placed before the Cabinet shortly and may be passed in the next session of Parliament. During the tenure of the interim government, the Advisory Council gave in-principle approval on 28 August last year to the draft Prevention, Redress and Protection of Enforced Disappearance Ordinance, 2025. Final approval was granted on 6 November that year, and the ordinance was promulgated the same day, retaining the death penalty for the offence of enforced disappearance. However, the new law will no longer include the word "Protection" in its title. It will instead be called the Prevention and Redress of Enforced Disappearance Act (*Prothom Alo*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **TIB urges wider consultation on draft enforced disappearance law:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called on the government to extend the consultation period for the draft Prevention and Remedy of Enforced Disappearance Act, 2026, saying stakeholders should be given more time to review and provide feedback on the proposed legislation. **In a statement issued on Tuesday, TIB said the Ministry of Home Affairs uploaded the draft law to its website on July 27 and set July 28 as the deadline for submitting opinions. The organization described the one-day consultation period as inadequate and urged the government to extend it by at least two weeks to ensure meaningful participation by victims of enforced disappearance and other stakeholders.**

TIB also expressed concern over what it described as a recent pattern of important legislation being introduced and passed in Parliament without sufficient scrutiny. The organization referred to the passage of the Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026, and said it feared a similar process could be followed for the proposed enforced disappearance law. TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the draft contains several positive provisions, including recognizing enforced disappearance as a separate criminal and continuing offence, holding senior officials and those issuing orders accountable, and rejecting national security or similar grounds as justification for enforced disappearance. However, he said the limited time provided for public feedback raised questions about the government's commitment to obtaining views from victims and other relevant stakeholders. **The organization also questioned a provision assigning responsibility for investigating enforced disappearance cases to the police instead of the National Human Rights Commission** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).

- ❖ **Police block Habiganj-bound NCP leaders again:** A convoy carrying National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders was stopped by police again at the entrance of Habiganj's Bahubal upazila on Wednesday afternoon, shortly after the party leaders crossed a police barricade in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal. The convoy was halted at Muchai area of Bahubal as the leaders attempted to enter Habiganj, where Section 144 has been imposed. **A convoy carrying National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders was stopped by police again at the entrance of Habiganj's Bahubal upazila on Wednesday afternoon, shortly after the party leaders crossed a police barricade in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal. The convoy was halted at Muchai area of Bahubal as the leaders attempted to enter Habiganj, where Section 144 has been imposed. National Citizen Party (NCP) has filed a complaint with Habiganj Sadar Police Station over Tuesday's attack on its leaders and activists in the district.** Tanmoy Tanvir, convener of Jubo Shakti, the youth wing of the NCP, filed the complaint against 11 people, including Habiganj district Chhatra Dal President Shah Rajib Ahmed Ringon, at the Kamai Chhara police camp in Bahubal upazila on Wednesday night in the presence of Superintendent of Police Mohammad Tareq Mahmud. **The Habiganj district administration today withdrew the Section 144 order imposed across the municipality after NCP, the BNP and their affiliated bodies announced programmes at same time same place** (*The Daily Star*, [29 July 2026](#); *Times of Bangladesh*, [29 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ❖ **11-party alliance condemns attack on NCP leaders, police obstruction in Habiganj:** The 11-party alliance has condemned the attack on the motorcade of National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders in Habiganj and the alleged police obstruction of the party's senior leaders, saying political speech should be answered politically, not through violence. In a statement issued today, the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance's coordinator AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad said the attack and vandalism took place on Tuesday evening as the NCP's top leaders were returning from the "July March-2026" programme in Habiganj. **Describing the police action as a violation of democratic rights, Hamidur Rahman Azad said there is no place for attacks over political speech in a democracy. If anyone disagrees with a political statement, they should respond through politics rather than violence, he said.** He also alleged that the government, having failed to confront the opposition politically, had unleashed "terrorists" against opposition leaders and activists. The alliance demanded the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the attack on the NCP leaders in Habiganj. **It also urged the authorities not to obstruct peaceful opposition programmes in future and called on law enforcers to carry out their duties while respecting citizens' fundamental rights** (*The Daily Star*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Authorities seek BGB deployment in five Sylhet upazilas for NCP's programmes:** Sylhet district administration has sought deployment of Border Guard Bangladesh in five upazilas to maintain law-and-order ahead of the National Citizen Party's July march programmes scheduled for Thursday and Friday. Deputy commissioner Abdullah Al Mamun sent a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the BGB headquarters on Wednesday seeking the deployment. The five upazilas are — Jaintapur, Golapganj, Gowainghat, Kanaighat and Companiganj. He said the request was made following a letter from Sylhet superintendent of police Chowdhury Md Jaber Sadek to the district administration. According to a local administration source, the NCP's Sylhet district unit is scheduled to hold its July march programmes in several upazilas on Thursday and Friday (*New Age*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Politicians, activists urge govt to fully implement CHT accord:** Politicians, rights activists and professionals on Wednesday urged the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government to take steps to fully implement the Chattogram Hill Tracts Peace Accord to establish lasting peace in the region, saying that despite being signed in 1997, the accord remains only partially implemented nearly three decades later. At a discussion organised by the Parbatya Chattagram Chukti Bastabayan Andolan at the National Press Club, they also proposed the formation of a national commission to resolve the longstanding crisis in the hill region. Zakir Hossain, joint coordinator of the Parbatya Chattagram Chukti Bastabayan Andolan, presented the keynote paper at the discussion, outlining a six-point demand that included appointing a cabinet minister for the Chattogram Hill Tracts, reforming the advisory council, taking steps to implement the accord and initiating discussions on its full implementation. Demanding government intervention, Transparency International Bangladesh executive director Iftekharuzzaman said it was unfortunate that the CHT accord had not been fully implemented after all these years (*New Age*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **10 years' imprisonment for spreading rumours, disinformation:** The government is set to amend the Cyber Security Act again, just three months after its enactment. The revised law will make the legislation more stringent by adding new provisions while also increasing penalties, according to sources at the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division. According to the sources, the amended law proposes to define four categories—rumours, disinformation, derogatory content and defamatory information—as offences, making those accused of disseminating such content liable to punishment. In addition, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and other authorised agencies will be brought into the enforcement process alongside law enforcement agencies. Although the draft law does not explicitly name the other authorised agency, a source at the Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed to Prothom Alo that it refers to the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC). Sources at the Information and Communication Technology Division said the amended law could be passed during the next session of parliament (*Prothom Alo*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Latif Siddique arrested over Shapla Chattar crackdown case:** The Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police today arrested former minister Abdul Latif Siddique in connection with a crime against humanity case over the May 5, 2013, Shapla Chattar crackdown in Dhaka. A team of DB officials arrested Latif Siddique from his home in Dhaka's Gulshan, Shafiqul Islam, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star. An arrest warrant had been issued against Latif Siddique, he added. On July 27, the prosecution submitted formal charges against 41 people, including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and Latif Siddique, in connection with the Shapla Chattar crackdown (*The Daily Star*, [29 July 2026](#)).

- ❖ **Jamaat urges EC to bar administrators from running in local polls:** Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday asked the Election Commission to bar politically appointed local administrators from contesting the local government elections and withdraw the EC's proposal to disqualify MPO-listed teachers from running in the polls. The party also demanded the cancellation of the contractual appointment of EC Additional Secretary Md Shamsul Alam, alleging that he had previously served on a BNP committee on constituency delimitation. It also called for a ban on ministers and lawmakers participating in local election activities. A six-member Jamaat delegation, led by Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, met Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin and two election commissioners at the EC headquarters in Agargaon. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Porwar said the proposals were aimed at ensuring "free, fair, transparent, and acceptable" local body elections (*The Daily Star*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ❖ **45 years later, unpublished report on Ziaur Rahman's assassination comes to light:** An official report on the 1981 murder of former president Ziaur Rahman has come to light 45 years after the killing. The Daily Star published the contents of the investigation on Wednesday after obtaining a physical copy of the report. **Ziaur Rahman was killed at the Chattogram Circuit House on May 30, 1981, as part of an attempted military coup.** The investigation panel was set up by Justice Abdus Sattar, the acting president at the time, who would later become president. The commission was led by former chief justice Ruhul Islam, justice Abu Taher Mohammad Afzal – who would go on to become a chief justice himself, and Khulna district and sessions judge Syed Serajuddin Ahmed. The panel launched its probe on Jun 25 that year, working out of the building that later became the Ganabhaban. "This report never saw the light of day. We do not know what happened to this report, and it was never made public," Ziauddin M Chowdhury, the deputy commissioner of Chattogram at the time of the murder, told The Daily Star (*bdnews24.com*, [29 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ❖ **DU to review 15 years of appointments, investigate teachers over July uprising:** Dhaka University's (DU) Syndicate has decided to review all appointments of teachers, officers and staff made between January 1, 2009, and June 30, 2024, while also launching an investigation into allegations against teachers accused of opposing students during the July 2024 mass uprising. The decisions were taken at a Syndicate meeting on Tuesday, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof ABM Obaidul Islam, who confirmed them to Dhaka Tribune. To review appointments made during the period, the Syndicate formed an investigation committee headed by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof Abdus Salam. Deans of the university's various faculties will serve as members of the committee. **The Syndicate also decided to review research activities carried out under the World Bank- and University Grants Commission (UGC)-funded Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) during the same period to determine whether project funds were properly utilised.** A separate committee, headed by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof Mohammed Almujaaddade Alfasane, has been formed to conduct the review (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ❖ **PM reviews earthquake preparedness measures:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday reviewed the government's overall preparedness plans and progress regarding earthquake response, including forming a national taskforce, preparing one lakh volunteers and strengthening emergency coordination mechanisms. The review meeting was held this afternoon at the Cabinet Division of the Bangladesh Secretariat, with the prime minister in the

chair, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Hossain Shadhin. A decision was also made in the meeting to establish a special cell on earthquake preparedness at the Prime Minister's Office to coordinate related activities. (*Daily Sun*, [29 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Keep politics out of school textbooks:** Educationists on Wednesday called on the government to keep politics out of school textbooks and the national curriculum, saying education reforms should be guided by broad-based consultation and the evolving learning needs of children rather than political ideology. They also urged a broad-based review of the primary curriculum involving teachers, students, parents, and education experts to ensure it remains relevant, inclusive and future-oriented. The observations came at a discussion titled 'Shaping Quality Primary Education: Journey Towards High-Quality Curriculum Resources for Every Child,' organised by Plan International Bangladesh at a hotel in Gulshan, Dhaka (*New Age*, [30 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Prime Minister assures steps to resolve gas crisis in industrial sector:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has assured business leaders that the government will take steps to address the ongoing gas crisis affecting the country's industrial sector. The assurance was conveyed during a meeting with the Prime Minister at the Secretariat on Wednesday (29 July), Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) President Showkat Aziz Russell told reporters after the meeting. **The BTMA president alleged that the gas shortage in the industrial sector had resulted from the failure to take timely policy decisions.** He said the prime minister was making efforts to understand the challenges facing the textile industry and that entrepreneurs were encouraged by the government's sincerity in resolving the sector's problems. **Showkat Aziz Russell also said the government had asked entrepreneurs to submit reports identifying the level of support required by factories that have either been completely shut down or are operating at reduced capacity due to the gas crisis** (*Daily Sun*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Experts urge sustainable preparation over haste for Bangladesh's LDC graduation:** Government policymakers, economists and business leaders have stressed that Bangladesh must prioritise energy security, banking sector reforms, a business-friendly environment and policy continuity to ensure a smooth and sustainable graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. The observations were made on Wednesday evening (29 July) at a strategic dialogue titled "Bangladesh's Upcoming LDC Graduation: Addressing the Challenges of Sustainable Transformation", organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) at the Ruhul Quddus Auditorium of the ICMAB Building in Nilkhet, Dhaka. **In his keynote address, the Commerce Adviser said Bangladesh had already qualified for LDC graduation, but the real challenge lay in ensuring that the transition was sustainable.** He noted that once the country leaves the LDC category, it will face a new global trading environment, particularly in exports, the pharmaceutical industry and international commerce. **He therefore emphasised the need to complete the necessary structural reforms before graduation.** He also said that the government is implementing a series of structural reforms to strengthen Bangladesh's economic foundations and ensure a smooth and sustainable transition from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt panel recommends procurement of fuel oil worth Tk 16,088.52cr under G2G deals:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase today recommended the approval of a proposal to import refined fuel oil worth an estimated Tk 16,088.52 crore for the July-December 2026 period under government-to-government (G2G) agreements with six state-owned foreign suppliers. The decision came at the committee's 33rd meeting of 2026 with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair at the Cabinet Division Conference Room at Bangladesh Secretariat today. According to the Cabinet Division, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division proposed importing refined petroleum products from six G2G suppliers in line with the agreed premium, quantity and prevailing reference prices. The recommended suppliers are ENOC of the United Arab Emirates, PetroChina and Unipet of China, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) of India, OQT of Thailand and BSP of Indonesia. Besides the fuel oil procurement, the committee recommended several major development and infrastructure-related procurement proposals (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BAPEX starts drilling new gas well in Noakhali:** The Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) has started drilling of new gas well on Tuesday at Barocharigaon of Shenbagh upazila here. The state-owned petroleum exploration and production company is primarily expecting seven million cubic-feet gas likely to add in the national grid from this newly explored gas field. "The excavation of the gas well is progressing in full swing under 'Sundalpur-4 Evaluation and Development Well Excavation Project' and it will continue for 45 days", said the BAPEX sources. Initially, the BAPEX has set excavation of 1,550 meters target depth under the soil with discovering of natural gas in two separate zones. "The entire accumulated gas reserve will be known after concluding the drilling operation for the next 45 days", said Zakir Hossain, drilling in-charge of the project (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Trivedi says Delhi eagerly awaits PM Tarique Rahman's India visit:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi said New Delhi is eagerly looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to India and hoped the visit would take place soon. "I think it is the Prime Minister's prerogative. But from our side, I can say that we are eagerly looking forward to welcoming the head of the Bangladesh government to India. We hope the visit will take place very soon," he said. The Indian envoy made the remarks while responding to questions from journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after holding meetings with Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam. Asked about the possible timing of the Prime Minister's visit to India, Trivedi said it would depend on the Bangladesh premier's priorities. Mentioning that the meeting was held in a very amicable environment, Dinesh Trivedi said various issues of bilateral relations, including sports and even cricket, were discussed. Referring to the resumption of Indian visas for Bangladeshis, the Indian High Commissioner said, "It is very convenient for the people of both India and Bangladesh. The relationship between the two countries is historical. We share not only a border but also a common culture and dreams. The meeting went very well. I look forward to building the foundation of a relationship that is beneficial for the people of both sides." Stating that the discussion has only just begun, Dinesh Trivedi said, "We will talk more in the future. I am waiting for that" (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [29 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Indian envoy Trivedi says Teesta, Ganges issues can be resolved through ‘mutual understanding’:** India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi has said the Teesta and Ganges water-sharing issues could be resolved through dialogue. Trivedi held separate courtesy meetings with Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and State Minister Shama Obaed on Wednesday, striking a positive note on bilateral ties. **"There is no problem which cannot be sorted out with mutual understanding," he said. He added, ultimately, what matters is what benefits the people and the two democracies. Asked whether the Teesta issue had come up during the meeting, he said it was a courtesy call but reiterated that no issue was beyond resolution through dialogue.** On renewing the Ganges water-sharing treaty, Tripathi said a joint working group comprising officials from both countries was actively engaged (*bdnews24.com*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khalilur says Govt reviewing invitation for PM to attend BRICS Summit: Foreign Minister** Dr Khalilur Rahman said the government is reviewing the invitation for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi as a special guest. **"We're currently reviewing it. We will take a decision and inform you immediately once that decision is made," he told journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this afternoon.** The Foreign Minister was speaking after newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid his first courtesy call on him. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the 18th BRICS Summit, scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13. **Khalilur said the Prime Minister has received several invitations for foreign visits, while his upcoming participation in the United Nations General Assembly in New York also needs to be taken into consideration while finalising his diplomatic engagements.** "There are several invitations. At the same time, the Prime Minister will attend the General Assembly in New York. So, we have to consider all these engagements together," he added. **Referring to his recent interaction with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar in Manila, Khalilur said both sides expressed hope that Dhaka and New Delhi would work to further strengthen bilateral relations in the coming days** (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM's Delhi visit depends on bilateral engagement:** Bangladesh is weighing Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's attendance at the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, with the premier seeking confirmation of substantive bilateral talks with Indian leaders after the event before deciding whether to make the trip. **The invitation offers Dhaka an opportunity to cautiously reset strained ties with India, but domestic political sensitivities and uncertainty over meaningful bilateral engagement remain key factors in the decision. Diplomatic sources said India extended the invitation in its capacity as the current Chair of BIMSTEC rather than as part of a bilateral initiative. The move is being interpreted in Dhaka as an effort to engage Bangladesh primarily on regional cooperation instead of addressing contentious bilateral issues.** Officials say the decision carries both diplomatic and political implications. A visit to India remains politically sensitive in Bangladesh following the deterioration of bilateral relations after the fall of the Awami League government in 2024. At the same time, declining the invitation could be interpreted internationally as a lack of enthusiasm for BIMSTEC, whose Secretariat is based in Dhaka and which Bangladesh currently chairs. **Diplomatic observers note that attending the BRICS Summit would provide an opportunity for the prime minister to interact with regional leaders. However, with several heads of government expected to participate, Bangladesh is unlikely to receive significant diplomatic attention, while the tightly packed summit schedule would leave**

little room for meaningful bilateral negotiations. Converting the trip into a full-fledged bilateral visit is also considered difficult because of time constraints and the extensive preparations required, with only about five weeks remaining before the summit. Despite continuing irritants in bilateral ties, both governments appear to be pursuing a gradual reset of relations based on mutual interests (*Times of Bangladesh*, [30 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Tripura CM sends pineapples to PM Tarique reciprocating mango gift:** Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha on Wednesday sent 600 Queen variety pineapples to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman as a goodwill gesture, reciprocating a recent gift of mangoes from the Bangladesh government. Packed in 100 cartons, the pineapples were transported by a pickup from the northeastern Indian state of Tripura. Officials from the Assistant High Commission of India in Chittagong received the consignment before handing it over to representatives of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka for onward delivery. The pineapples were later transported to the capital by pickup. Apurba Roy, secretary of Tripura's Agriculture Department, who was present at the port, said the gift was sent in response to the mangoes recently presented by the Bangladesh government. "The Bangladesh government gifted us mangoes. On behalf of our state, we are sending pineapples as a gift," he said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Fresh Bangladeshi jackfruit approved for export to China:** China has officially approved the import of fresh jackfruit from Bangladesh, opening a new export opportunity for the country's agricultural sector. The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) made the announcement on 27 July, authorising the import of fresh Bangladeshi jackfruit that complies with the country's specified phytosanitary requirements. **The approval marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh's fruit export industry, as China is one of the world's largest import markets for fresh produce. The approval comes as Bangladesh continues efforts to expand access for its agricultural products in international markets and boost export diversification.** An MoU on jackfruit exports from Bangladesh was signed during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's recent visit to China. Referring to his recent visit to China, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on 8 July told parliament that, "Jackfruit from our country is very popular. Chinese people like it very much" (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Russia's expanded scholarships spark interest among Bangladeshi students:** Russia's decision to increase the number of government scholarships available to Bangladeshi students from 65 to 200 has generated renewed interest in the country's higher education system, with students increasingly exploring Russia as an affordable destination for academic and professional development. The expanded scholarship program, announced by the Russian House in Dhaka, covers Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD studies at Russian universities. **The initiative comes at a time when many Bangladeshi students are looking beyond traditional study destinations in search of quality education at comparatively lower costs. The scholarship expansion has also fuelled growing demand for Russian language education.** Institutions including the Russian House in Dhaka, the Institute of Modern Languages at the University of Dhaka, Stamford University Bangladesh, the State University of Bangladesh, and several private language centers now offer Russian language courses while providing information on admission procedures, scholarships, and student life in Russia. **Despite the growing interest, studying in Russia also presents challenges. Students often need to complete Russian language training before beginning their academic programs, adapt to a different climate and culture, and understand the recognition requirements for professional degrees after returning to Bangladesh.** Prospective applicants are also advised to carefully review scholarship conditions, admission

requirements, and visa regulations before applying. As Bangladesh and Russia continue to expand educational cooperation, the increase in government scholarships is expected to encourage more Bangladeshi students to consider Russia among their higher education options. Education experts, however, stress that students should evaluate universities, academic programs, career prospects, and degree recognition before making a final decision about studying abroad (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Russia proposes rupee payments for Rooppur as Dhaka weighs sanctions risks:** Russia has proposed settling bilateral trade with Bangladesh in Indian rupees to overcome payment difficulties caused by Western sanctions, while also reviving plans to establish a direct banking link between the two countries. **The proposal includes conducting trade in rupees, creating a dedicated payment infrastructure and allowing a Russian bank to open a branch in Bangladesh. Analysts say the move could reduce dependence on the US dollar in Bangladesh-Russia trade and provide an alternative mechanism for transactions affected by sanctions. However, they caution that Bangladesh will need to carefully consider the diplomatic, financial and regulatory implications before making a decision.** According to the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the proposals will be discussed at the Bangladesh-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, scheduled for September or October. A preparatory meeting will be held beforehand to determine Bangladesh's negotiating position (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Acting Speaker, Nepal envoy agree on revitalising SAARC:** Acting Speaker of the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Barrister Kayser Kamal and Nepal's Ambassador to Bangladesh Ghanshyam Bhandari expressed optimism that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) could be revitalised through enhanced regional cooperation. The view was shared when the Nepalese envoy paid a courtesy call on the Acting Speaker at his office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here. During the meeting, the Acting Speaker said the opportunity still exists to realise the vision of the Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, who initiated the establishment of SAARC with the goal of promoting the desired development of South Asian countries through mutual cooperation. He called upon Nepal to take an active role in making the regional bloc effective once again, to which Ambassador Bhandari expressed his agreement, said a press release of parliament secretariat here. **Referring to Bangladesh's import of electricity from Nepal, he said both countries could further expand cooperation in education, culture, youth exchanges, people-to-people connectivity, water resources, energy, regional connectivity, trade and climate change** (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama seeks more jobs for Bangladesh workers in Brunei:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today expressed interest for more employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in Brunei Darussalam. She expressed the interest when Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner to Bangladesh Haji Haris Bin Othman paid a courtesy call on her at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here, said a ministry's press release. **During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in manpower, trade and investment, energy and air connectivity.** Shama underscored Bangladesh's interest in expanding access to Brunei's labour market, creating greater employment opportunities for Bangladeshi nationals (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US-Bangla unveils \$1.5bn plan for 21 Boeing aircraft:** US-Bangla Airlines today unveiled a US\$1.5 billion fleet expansion plan to add 21 Boeing aircraft under leasing arrangements by the

end of 2027, marking one of the largest expansion initiatives by a private Bangladeshi airline. **The plan includes 15 Boeing 737-8 and six Boeing 737-800 aircraft as the airline seeks to significantly expand its international network and transform itself into an integrated global aviation group.** The announcement was made at US-Bangla Airlines' "Beyond with Boeing" event in the capital. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat, PM's Foreign Affairs and Civil Aviation Adviser Humayun Kabir, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent Christensen, Boeing Vice President of Sales Paul Righi, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq, senior government officials, diplomats and aviation stakeholders attended the event. Addressing the event, State Minister Millat said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, is working in a coordinated manner to transform Bangladesh into a regional aviation hub (*BSS News*, [29 July 2026](#)).

- ❖ **Trump's special envoy Sergio Gor will arrive in Dhaka today:** US Special Envoy for South and Central Asia Sergio Gor is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today, Thursday afternoon for a three-day visit. On the first day of his trip, Gor is expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman. Diplomatic sources said he is scheduled to visit Cox's Bazar on Friday to assess the situation of the Rohingya refugees firsthand. Diplomats and international relations analysts view the visit as significant in light of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's recent trip to Beijing, Bangladesh's growing engagement with various countries, and the latest regional diplomatic developments. Gor is the third senior US official to visit Dhaka from Washington since the BNP government took office in February (*Prothom Alo*, [30 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ❖ **5 Bangladeshi women return home after serving jail terms in India:** Five Bangladeshi women returned home through Benapole land port on Tuesday night after serving jail terms in India. Petrapole immigration police handed them over to Benapole immigration police around 8pm under special travel permits. The returnees were Papia Akter, Shimu Akter, Sharmin Khatun, Lovely Khatun and Rozina Khatun. They are from Jessore, Narail, Bagerhat and Tangail districts. **Officer-in-Charge of Benapole Immigration Police Saifur Rahman said the women entered India through border routes about four years ago after being lured by brokers with promises of jobs. They were later arrested while working as domestic help and sentenced to two to three years in prison on charges of illegal entry.** After completing their sentences, an Indian human rights organisation kept them at a shelter home. With the cooperation of the high commissions of the two countries and a special travel permit issued by the Indian government, they were repatriated (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).
- ❖ **Police say 'top criminal' David Emon was trying to flee to India before arrest in Jashore:** Alleged Chattogram gangster Mobarak Hossain Emon, better known as David Emon, was trying to cross the border into India illegally when he was arrested in Jashore with three associates, police have said. **Jashore Superintendent of Police Syed Rafiqul Islam told bdnews24.com on Wednesday that officers acted on intelligence that Emon was travelling towards the border district in a private vehicle.** "We launched an operation around 3:30am near Narail-Jashore highway's Jhumjhum area and arrested him along with three associates." The others arrested were Mohammad Shamim, Mohammad Safayet Hossain and Alvi Islam Alip. The four were handed over to Chattogram police around 10am on Wednesday, the police chief said. **"During**

preliminary questioning, they said they had come to Jashore to cross the border into India." Police describe Emon as a close associate of Chattogram's notorious gangster Sajjad Ali Khan, also known as Boro Sajjad. He is accused in 18 criminal cases, including a double murder, and allegedly carried out crimes on Sajjad's behalf. Emon's name recently surfaced in a Tk 20 million extortion case involving an internet service provider in Chattogram (*bdnews24.com*, [29 July 2026](#)).

◆ **UN experts urge action to end trafficking, deaths of Rohingyas on Andaman Sea:** UN experts on Wednesday called for urgent action to support the humanitarian response to the hosting of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, recognising the shared responsibility of the international community. "Statelessness affecting Rohingya refugees and the protracted situation of displacement contributes to serious risks of human trafficking with devastating consequences for victims," said the experts who are in contact with the government of Bangladesh. **Reports indicate that Rohingya refugees rescued on the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, including children, may be detained for several days at police stations without adequate access to legal assistance, psychosocial support or medical care, despite having experienced severe trauma, including the death or disappearance of family members, according to a message UNB received from Geneva.** "Humanitarian organizations provide assistance to persons rescued at sea but are reliant on timely referrals by law enforcement agencies, and are facing reduced capacity due to severe funding cuts," the experts said. They called for effective measures to prevent human trafficking and ensure human rights-based, gender sensitive, and survivor-centred responses to trafficking in persons, including ending statelessness and ensuring access to employment, education, health care, freedom of movement and comprehensive protection services (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 July 2026](#)).

◆ **BNP-leaning maritime professionals form committee:** Bangladesh Nationalist Party-leaning professionals from the country's maritime, port, shipping, marine engineering, logistics and related sectors have formed the central convening committee of the Association of Maritime Professionals (Bangladesh) recently. **According to a press release issued on Tuesday, the committee aims to promote unity among maritime professionals, enhance professional skills, safeguard members' interests, conduct research and training activities and provide constructive recommendations for national maritime policymaking. It also seeks to contribute to the sustainable development of Bangladesh's blue economy, port and shipping sectors.** The committee comprises Captain Mia Mohammad Rajibul Islam as convener, Zahid Hasan as senior joint convener, Muhammad Riazul Hasan and Taiful Islam as joint conveners, Rakibul Hasan Chowdhury as member secretary, Farhan Fuad as joint member secretary, office, and Faruk Hasan Chowdhury as port affairs secretary, along with 13 other members. The leaders said that the organisation would work to strengthen the maritime sector through skilled human resource development, international-standard training and research while protecting the rights and dignity of maritime professionals. They also invited maritime professionals and other stakeholders to join the initiative (*New Age*, [29 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Cambodia-based human trafficking network ringleader Shahadat arrested:** The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested Md Shahadat Hossain, an alleged key ringleader of a Cambodia-based human trafficking network, during a raid in the capital's Agargaon area. He said Shahadat is a named accused in a case filed with Airport Police Station under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act and the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act. **Preliminary investigation found that**

Shahadat was one of the principal organisers of a human trafficking syndicate operating in Cambodia. He had allegedly been involved for a long time in luring people with promises of overseas jobs before trafficking them to the Southeast Asian country. The CTTC said the investigation is continuing to gather further information and identify other members of the trafficking network. Legal proceedings against the arrested suspect are currently underway, the unit added (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).

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