

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

03 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **ACC probes 4, including Asif Mahmud, over corruption charges:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has launched an investigation against four individuals, including former interim government adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, **over various allegations of irregularities and corruption in the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The allegations include irregularities in recruitment, transfers and procurement syndicates.** A senior ACC official confirmed the matter to Prothom Alo on Wednesday. He said the commission had already formed a four-member team to investigate the allegations. A special team led by ACC Deputy Director Md Zahid Kalam has been assigned to conduct the inquiry, according to sources. An ACC source said a complaint alleging corruption against Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain had been submitted to the commission. The ACC later decided to investigate the complaint (*Prothom Alo*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Asif Mahmud threatens to sue ACC over 'defamatory' corruption allegations:** National Citizen Party (NCP) spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain has provided an explanation regarding the allegations raised by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) over irregularities and corruption in the Ministry of Youth and Sports during his tenure as an advisor to the former interim government. **Claiming that he was not personally involved in either of the two incidents related to the allegations, Asif Mahmud said he was being deliberately implicated.** Earlier on Wednesday, ACC Deputy Director Aktarul Islam said the commission had found 'initial evidence' of the allegations while announcing that an inquiry had been launched against Asif Mahmud and three others. He later withdrew the statement. In this regard, Asif Mahmud said, **"I urge the ACC to apologise within 24 hours for the damage caused to my reputation and to withdraw the news reports published citing you. Otherwise, I will be compelled to take legal action and file a defamation lawsuit."** (*Prothom Alo*, [03 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Journalists to rally for 10th Wage Board, interim allowance Thursday:** Journalists and media workers will hold a rally in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka on Thursday to demand the immediate formation of the 10th Wage Board, announcement of an interim cost-of-living allowance and implementation of the 9th Wage Board award with arrears at media organisations where it has yet to be implemented. The rally has been organised jointly by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), according to a press release issued by the DUJ on Wednesday. Journalist leaders as well as leaders of different professional organisations will address the rally (*Daily Sun*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hannan Masud questions if govt is strangling freedom of expression:** Noakhali-6 lawmaker Abdul Hannan Masud on Wednesday questioned whether the government was strangling freedom of expression amid allegations that media reports were being removed and news outlets were facing cyberattacks after publishing reports involving the government or its ministers. He raised the question as a supplementary query during the question-and-answer session of Jatiya Sangsad, seeking an explanation from the information minister. Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad chaired the session. **Referring to a report published by Daily Waadaa concerning the son of the**

home minister, Hannan alleged that the report had subsequently been removed. He also said that Channel 1 came under a cyberattack after publishing a major report concerning state minister for local government Mir Shahe Alam, making the report inaccessible for a long time. ‘When we see reports being removed and media outlets facing cyberattacks after publishing news about the government or its ministers, questions have arisen among the public—is the government strangling freedom of expression?’ Hannan said. Responding on behalf of information minister Andaleev Rahman, state minister Yasser Khan Choudhury said the media was currently enjoying greater freedom than at any time in the past. ‘Following the instructions of prime minister Tarique Rahman, we do not want to control the media, nor are we doing so,’ he said. **The state minister said media outlets were independent, and it was entirely their own decision which reports to upload, remove, publish or withhold reports** (*New Age*, [02 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Parwar says Media executives advised Jamaat chief not to accept referendum verdict with dissent:** Senior electronic media executives have urged Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami amir and leader of the opposition Shafiqur Rahman to make it clear that the July Charter referendum verdict must be accepted without dissent, party secretary general Mia Golam Parwar said on Wednesday. He made the remarks while briefing reporters after a meeting between Shafiqur Rahman and top electronic media executives at his Minto Road residence in Dhaka. **Golam Parwar said the media executives advised the Jamaat chief to state clearly that those holding differing opinions on the referendum—held in accordance with the July Charter—must accept the public verdict without disagreement, declaring unequivocally whether or not they will abide by it.** According to him, Shafiqur Rahman told the media executives that the 13th parliamentary election and the referendum were held on February 12, 2026, warning that failure to implement the referendum verdict could trigger a fresh political crisis. He also highlighted Jamaat’s ‘open and sincere’ role both inside and outside parliament in upholding the public mandate (*New Age*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bar administrators from running in local body polls:** Jamaat-e-Islami demanded that individuals who were politically appointed as administrators of various local government bodies be barred from contesting the upcoming local government elections. The party said such people could have an undue advantage in the electoral race by using government allocations and development activities to boost their chances. A six-member Jamaat delegation made the demand, among nine others, at a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin and other election commissioners at the Election Commission building in Dhaka yesterday. Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said the party had already objected to such appointments at various local government institutions, including district and upazila councils, city corporations and development authorities. **“We fear that these appointments are creating opportunities for them to prepare the ground for the local government elections. Therefore, we have demanded that they should not be allowed to contest the upcoming local polls, even if they resign after the schedule is announced,”** he said. Jamaat also reiterated its demand to retain the right of MPO-listed teachers to contest local government elections (*The Daily Star*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat MPs leave parliament over exclusion from committee chairmanships:** Jamaat-e-Islami MPs left the chamber in protest against the exclusion of opposition MPs from chairmanships of the standing committees in the 13th Parliament. At around 9:10 pm, Jamaat lawmakers led by deputy leader of the opposition Syed Abdullah Mohammed Taher left the chamber, minutes after 10 new standing committees were formed. All the committee chairmen were from BNP.

According to the Rules of Procedure, all parliamentary standing committees must be formed within the third session of a parliament. There are 50 standing committees in total, including 39 related to different ministries. **With the formation of 10 new committees, a total 25 standing committees have been formed in the 13th Parliament, including 19 ministry-related ones. Only Taher has been appointed chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. No one from the opposition bench were made chairman of standing committees related to ministries.** After the formation of the standing committees, Taher rose on a point of order. He said the opposition was “losing interest” in staying in the House because of the behaviour of the treasury bench. He said earlier the opposition had spoken about the formation of committees, but Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni did not place that proposal again. Taher also warned that if the next committees were formed in the same manner, they would not remain inside the chamber. While the Jamaat men were leaving the house, Salahuddin said the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had spoken, but he said he did not want to hear any reply at that moment. “It is perhaps not a walkout, yet in effect it was a walkout,” **Salahuddin said. Salahuddin said opposition members cannot be given chairmanships in proportion to their seats -- there is no such provision, nor any obligation. History also shows no precedent** (*The Daily Star*, [02 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BNP's 'one leader, one post' only on paper:** The ruling BNP is yet to implement its “one leader, one post” provision a decade after incorporating it into its charter to widen leadership opportunities and strengthen accountability, leaving junior leaders frustrated with their lack of progression through the ranks. The issue has drawn attention since the BNP returned to power and a section of leaders who already hold two party posts are serving in government roles. **The provision, which was inserted into the BNP's constitution at its sixth national council on March 19, 2016, restricts the simultaneous holding of key posts at different levels of the party. At least two dozen leaders hold multiple organisational posts at both the central and district levels, even as the BNP leadership is trying to reorganise the party after the national election in February.** The BNP charter says no person can be elected as the president or general secretary of the district, metropolitan, upazila, thana, municipality, union or ward committee of the party at the same time. It also bars members of the Standing Committee and the chairman's advisory council, office-bearers of the National Executive Committee, any president of the party's organ, and leaders of associate and affiliated bodies from holding certain additional organisational posts. **The party could not fully implement what it states in the constitution as many leaders were in jail or hiding, facing cases or being persecuted by the Awami League government, said Syed Emran Saleh Prince, joint secretary general of the BNP. But grassroots leaders are becoming increasingly frustrated by the lack of opportunity to rise through the ranks,** The Daily Star has learnt from discussions with three dozen leaders of the party and its affiliated bodies. If one person holds on to two or three influential positions, the others have little opportunity to move up, said a BNP leader at the central level asking not to be named to speak candidly on the issue (*The Daily Star*, [02 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Ousted justice joins Jamaat, sparking controversy: What were the allegations against him?:** Former justice Syed Shahidur Rahman was among the 650 people from various walks of life who joined Jamaat-e-Islami last Tuesday. His decision to join the party has sparked debate, discussion and criticism on social media. The controversy stems from the fact that Syed Shahidur Rahman was removed from office in 2004. He was the first judge in Bangladesh to be removed following an investigation by a Supreme Judicial Council formed in the country. A Jamaat-e-Islami leader, who declined to be named, confirmed that the former justice Syed Shahidur Rahman and the person who recently joined the party are the same individual. Syed Shahidur Rahman's name appeared in a press release issued by Jamaat. On Wednesday, Rashed Khan,

political aide to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, posted about his joining on Facebook. In a sarcastic post, Rashed Khan wrote that by joining Jamaat, Shahidur Rahman had apparently taken an initiative to cleanse himself of all the controversies surrounding his past. He thanked Jamaat for taking the initiative to rehabilitate “criminals and controversial figures” and bring them back onto the right path. The episode dates back to 1 October 2003. **Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, then president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, accused Justice Syed Shahidur Rahman of taking money to secure bail in a case involving violence against a woman** (*Prothom Alo*, [03 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Hindu Religious Welfare Trust board reconstituted:** The government on Wednesday reconstituted the Trustee Board of the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust, a statutory body under the Ministry of Religious Affairs responsible for supporting the religious, educational, and cultural and welfare activities of Bangladesh’s Hindu community. Religious Affairs Minister has been appointed chairman of the board ex officio, while Religious Affairs Secretary has been made a member, reads a press release issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Lawmakers Nipun Roy Chowdhury and Suborna Shikder have been nominated as vice-chairmen of the trustee board (*Daily Sun*, [03 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Chattogram port declared Critical Information Infrastructure:** The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology has designated the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) as 'Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)'. **This declaration was made under Section 15 of the Cyber Protection (Amendment) Act, 2026, through a notice released on Tuesday, bringing the country's major economic lifeline under state cyber security coverage. To date, a total of 36 organizations in the country have been recognized as CII.** The CPA sources said the port's entire digital infrastructure underwent a rigorous assessment process. Following the successful completion of the evaluation, it received CII designation (*Daily Sun*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CCGP approves 70,000MT of fertilizer, 4 LNG cargoes to meet domestic demand:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) approved the import of 70,000 tonnes of phosphate-based fertilizer from Morocco and four cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential agricultural inputs and energy. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury presided over the 42nd meeting of the CCGP held at the Cabinet Division at Bangladesh Secretariat in the city. The committee approved a total of 13 procurement proposals covering different sectors, with agriculture and energy receiving particular attention. Of the approved fertilizer procurement, 40,000 tonnes (10 percent) of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer will be imported from OCP Nutricrops, Morocco, under the existing Government-to-Government (G2G) arrangement (*BSS News*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique outlines five-point energy plan, offers Tk 10.50 a unit for rooftop solar power:** The government is implementing a five-point plan to pull Bangladesh out of its energy crisis, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has told parliament. The programme focuses on raising domestic gas production, expanding seismic surveys, strengthening state-run explorer BAPEX, awarding production-sharing contracts through bidding, and expanding LNG infrastructure. As part of a programme to drill and work over 150 wells, 30 have already been completed, adding 140 million cubic feet of gas a day (mmcf) to the national grid, the prime minister said. Another

seven wells are now being drilled and are expected to add a further 85mmcf. Projects for the remaining wells will be taken up in phases. **The government has also drawn up plans for 4,500 line-kilometres of two-dimensional seismic surveys and 4,200sqkm of three-dimensional surveys in the search for new domestic gas reserves.** Two new drilling rigs are being procured to strengthen Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company. On exploration by international companies, Tarique said the Offshore Model PSC 2026 had been approved and a bidding round launched, while the onshore model production-sharing contract remained under approval. **The government has introduced incentives to encourage investment in rooftop solar power, including purchasing electricity generated by new systems at Tk 10.50 per unit and set minimum quality standards for lithium batteries.** Batteries that fail to meet the prescribed standards will not be allowed to be sold in Bangladesh, while the government is also planning to establish a fund to support small businesses involved in installing solar panels. The PM said the government would purchase electricity supplied to the national grid from rooftop solar systems installed within the next six months at Tk10.50 per unit. The government will provide an additional incentive on top of the bulk electricity rate, with the facility remaining in effect for three years, he said (*bdnews24.com*, [02 September 2026](#); *New Age*, [02 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Power situation to improve within 15 days:** State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit on Wednesday expressed firm optimism that the country's electricity situation will see visible improvement within the next 15 days. "The government is making all-out efforts to prevent a recurrence of the power and gas supply woes experienced in August," he said in parliament. **Replying to a supplementary question from opposition lawmaker Nurul Islam Bulbul, the state minister said the government is aware of the hardship caused by shortages of electricity and gas, and apologized for the situation. "I am saying this with responsibility. I do not want to hide the truth behind mere words. The people of Bangladesh are currently suffering due to electricity and gas shortages," he said.** Amit attributed the ongoing crisis largely to the consequences of long-standing policy mistakes in the power and energy sectors, compounded by the recent crisis in the Middle East, which he said created additional pressure on fuel supplies. He also highlighted the constraints arising from Bangladesh's heavy dependence on gas for power generation. **The state minister said the country's gas-fired power plants have a combined generation capacity of around 12,000 megawatts and require nearly 1,900 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) to operate at full capacity. Against this requirement, the current availability of gas from domestic production and imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) stands at around 2,300 to 2,700 MMCFD he said.** As a result, increasing gas allocation to power plants could disrupt supplies to industries and households, requiring the government to maintain a balance among the power, industrial and residential sectors, Amit said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [02 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Japanese shipping company keen to invest in Bangladesh's ship recycling sector:** Japan's leading shipping company Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) has expressed interest in investing in Bangladesh's promising ship recycling sector and providing technological cooperation. **The Japanese company also wants to develop a long-term partnership with Bangladesh in environmentally friendly ship recycling, technology transfer and skilled human resource development, said a press release.** A high-level MOL delegation expressed the interest when it met with Industries, Commerce and Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir at the Ministry of Industries here today. During the meeting, the minister said ship recycling and shipbuilding could play an important role in Bangladesh's industrialisation, employment generation and economic growth. The minister said around 31 green ship recycling facilities are currently operating in the country, while the government plans to increase the number to three digits in the coming years.

The minister said Bangladesh's goal is not limited to recycling old ships; rather, the country wants to use its existing capabilities to build a strong foundation for the shipbuilding industry (*BSS News*, [02 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **India-Bangladesh relations were 'govt-centric' under Hasina, Speaker Hafiz tells High Commissioner Trivedi:** Speaker of the House Hafiz Uddin Ahmad has said that relations between India and Bangladesh were “government-centric” during Sheikh Hasina's rule. However, the basis of relations between the two neighbouring countries should be “people-to-people relations” instead, he said. The speaker made the remark in a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi. Hafiz also said that the relationship should be taken forward based on mutual respect, independence and sovereignty. Hafiz and Trivedi met at the speaker's office in the parliament building on Wednesday, according to a press release by the Parliament Secretariat. The speaker said that Bangladesh-India relations have always progressed despite various tensions. **The speaker said, “The relationships between the people of the two countries should be the basis of the India-Bangladesh relationship. This relationship will move forward based on mutual respect and independent sovereignty.” At this time, Indian High Commissioner Trivedi also stressed building people-centric relations between the two countries. Trivedi said, “The Indian government is interested in building people-centric relations between the two countries. The government is working to fulfil the aspirations of the people by developing people-to-people relations.” A number of issues related to expanding Bangladesh-India bilateral relations were discussed in the meeting. Among these were the visits of parliamentary delegations of the two countries, the Rohingya crisis and rehabilitation, and sports and cultural exchanges. The high commissioner extended an invitation to Hafiz on behalf of the speaker of the Lok Sabha to visit India. He also emphasised the importance of exchange of visits between parliamentary delegations of the two countries. India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi has said the decision on Tarique Rahman's visit to India rests entirely with the Bangladesh prime minister. He also said both sides' intentions in advancing Bangladesh-India relations remain "people-oriented". Trivedi made the comments while answering questions from reporters after meeting Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad and Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal at the parliament on Wednesday (*bdnews24.com*, [02 September 2026](#), [02 September 2026](#)).**
- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi proposes formation of Bangladesh-India Parliamentary Friendship Group:** Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dinesh Trivedi has proposed the formation of ‘Bangladesh-India Parliamentary Friendship Group’ to enhance mutual communication and cooperation between the parliamentarians of the two neighbours. He made the proposal while briefing reporters after separate meetings with Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram and Deputy Speaker Barrister Kaiser Kamal on Wednesday. **Talking to reporters, Dinesh Trivedi said the parliament members from Bangladesh and India can communicate and exchange views regularly through a friendship group, reaching above their party positions. Through this, the relations between the people of the two countries will be further strengthened and the continuity of ‘people-to-people contact’ will be maintained, he said. The Indian envoy said he feels very happy and honoured to be at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, known as the 'Temple of Democracy'. Referring to such contact between the parliaments of the two countries as a continuous process, he said such initiatives will also be taken formally from the Indian side (*BSS News*, [02 September 2026](#)).**

- ◆ **Chief Whip says Bangladesh wants ties with India based on dignity, mutual respect:** Bangladesh wants to further strengthen its relations with India based on dignity, mutual respect, understanding and the welfare of the people of both countries, Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Md Nurul Islam Moni said. **“India is our neighbouring country. We do not ignore any neighbour. We want to develop relations with every country in a manner possible while giving the highest priority to Bangladesh’s interests,”** he said. The Chief Whip made the remarks while briefing journalists at the Media Centre of the Jatiya Sangsad following meetings between Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikrom, Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi. **He said Bangladesh is an independent and sovereign state, and relations between the two countries must therefore rest on mutual dignity and respect. Nurul Islam said the Prime Minister’s stance is not to allow an inch of Bangladesh’s territory to be used against any other country. Bangladesh, he said, also expects no neighbouring country to allow its territory to be used against Bangladesh. “We expect India, as a democratic country, not to provide shelter or patronage to those accused of crimes against humanity,”** he said. The Chief Whip said Bangladesh expects relations with India to become deeper and more effective in future. Regarding a possible visit to India by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, he said the visit would depend on mutual understanding between the two countries and a mutually convenient time for both prime ministers. He said Bangladesh expects India’s cooperation in managing the common rivers, including the Teesta water-sharing issue. **Regarding the proposal to form a parliamentary friendship group with India, Nurul Islam said Bangladesh had no objection to forming such a group to increase communication and mutual cooperation among lawmakers of the two countries regardless of political affiliation.** He said the two countries had such parliamentary friendship committees in the past and could exchange experience in parliamentary activities (*BSS News*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Iran envoy says Dhaka’s 'Mecca Pact' decision does not concern Tehran:** Iran on Wednesday said it does not view the "Mecca Pact" involving Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan as something against Tehran, and Bangladesh’s decision does not create concerns for them. **"We don't regard the Mecca Peace Pact as something against Iran. Their (Bangladesh) decision does not make us concerned,"** Ambassador of Iran to Bangladesh Dr Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi told reporters after his courtesy meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir. On Bangladesh’s foreign policy, the ambassador said Dhaka’s balanced approach to international relations was well understood by Tehran. **The envoy said Bangladesh’s decisions regarding its international and security relations would not create concern for Iran.** The ambassador said Iran values its relations with Bangladesh and is interested in further expanding cooperation in political, trade and cultural fields. **State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Wednesday said keeping the Strait of Hormuz open does not depend on just one single party, stressing that there are a range of complex issues involved and multiple actors are engaged in the conflict. The state minister said Bangladesh has reiterated its call for de-escalation of the conflict in the Middle East and sought a solution to the problem through dialogue under a de-escalation framework.** Kobir expressed Bangladesh’s hope for an early end to tensions in the region and lasting peace and stability in the interest of the people of the region and beyond. **Iran on Wednesday conveyed to Bangladesh that there is “no problem and difficulty” from Iran’s side regarding the shipment of LNG, gas and fuel to Bangladesh, while blaming the US for creating difficulties surrounding energy supplies.** “From the side of Iran, there is no problem and difficulty for shipment of your LNG, gas and fuel,” Ambassador of Iran to Bangladesh Dr Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while responding to questions from journalists. He identified what he described as two major realities behind the continuation of the difficulties - the impact of US attacks and the continuation of what he called

the American blockade against Iran. “From the side of Iran, there’s no problem. The problem is caused by Americans,” the Ambassador said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [02 September 2026](#), [02 September 2026](#), [02 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **President calls on US to simplify visa bond system for Bangladeshis:** President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has urged the United States to review and simplify the existing visa bond system for Bangladeshi businesspeople and real tourists travelling to the country. The President made the call during a courtesy meeting with US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T Christensen at Bangabhaban on Wednesday (2 September) morning. **During the meeting, President Mirza Fakhrul recalled past US investment and cooperation in developing Bangladesh's agricultural sector, including support for the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute. He called for greater American investment and cooperation in the sector. The President also highlighted the investment and significant role of US energy company Chevron in the development of Bangladesh's energy sector and urged increased American investment in the field** (*Daily Sun*, [02 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **State minister's '200,000 workers' remark doesn't represent Bangladesh govt's official position: Malaysia govt's spokesperson:** A report has appeared in the media quoting Bangladesh's State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD), Mir Shahe Alam, as saying that Malaysia will recruit 200,000 workers from Bangladesh over the next six months. However, **Malaysian government spokesperson and Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil has said the remark does not represent the official position of the Bangladesh government, reports Malaysiakini, a news outlet of Malaysia.** He made the comments at a press conference on Wednesday following a Cabinet meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia's administrative capital. Fahmi Fadzil said Malaysian Human Resources Minister R Ramanan had informed him that the statement had been made by a Bangladeshi state minister and did not constitute an official position of the Bangladesh government, the Malaysiakini report added. According to Fahmi Fadzil, he had contacted Human Resources Minister Ramanan about the matter. **“He said this is not an official statement from the Bangladesh government,” Fahmi said, adding that, as far as he understood, the remark had been made by a state minister and therefore did not represent the official position of the Bangladesh government** (*Prothom Alo*, [03 September 2026](#)).

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