

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

21 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Case sought against Yunus, Asif Nazrul, 25 others over vandalism, torching of Bangabandhu's house:** A case application has been filed against interim government chief Muhammad Yunus, former law adviser Asif Nazrul and 25 others over an attack on the Dhanmondi 32 residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They stand accused of vandalising and setting fire to the house of the leader of the nation's independence movement. Tamanna Chowdhury Priyanka filed the application at the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Jewel Rana on Thursday. The complainant's lawyer AKM Sharif Uddin said the court recorded her statement and kept its order pending. The other people named in the application include former home advisor Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, former environment advisor Rizwana Hasan, Yunus's press secretary Shafiqul Alam, former cultural affairs advisor Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, former advisor and current MP Nahid Islam, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Mahfuj Alam, MPs Akhter Hossen and Abdul Hannan Masud, Hasnat Abdullah, National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders Sarjis Alam, Samantha Sharmin, Nusrat Tabassum, Tasnim Jara, Nasiruddin Patwary and Ariful Islam Adib. **However, a Dhaka court has dismissed a petition seeking to file a case against 27 people, including former interim government chief adviser Muhammad Yunus and former law adviser Asif Nazrul, over the vandalism and arson at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence on Dhanmondi 32, Dhaka** (*bdnews24.com*, [20 August 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Nurul Haque calls for political consensus to ban Jamaat, Shibir:** State minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment and Gono Odhikar Parishad president Nurul Haque Nur on Thursday called for political consensus to ban Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, warning that the groups could fuel extremism and damage the country's global image. **Nurul Haque Nur called on Jamaat-e-Islami to drop the word "Islam" from its name, warning that the party would become an even bigger fascist force than the Awami League if given the opportunity.** His call came after his visit to Gono Odhikar Parishad student leader Sohanur Rahman, injured in a clash reportedly with the activists of Jamaat and Shibir in Kushtia, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on the day. Having mentioned that the Awami League regime had banned Jamaat and its student wing Shibir, while the interim government later lifted the ban, Nur told journalists outside the hospital that the current government should also reconsider the issue and, if necessary, build political consensus to ban them. **Referring to the ban on Awami League activities for the 2024 July uprising killings, Nur said that Jamaat and Shibir had been responsible for even more serious atrocities during the 1971 War of Independence, including killings, looting and sexual violence. He also referred to the United Nations' warning about Al-Qaida targeting Bangladesh, saying that such activities could be carried out through Jamaat and Shibir and claiming that the two organisations provided armed 'cadre'** (*New Age*, [20 August 2026](#); *Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CID gets Sept 27 deadline for further investigation into Hadi murder:** A Dhaka court has ordered the submission of a further investigation report in the murder case of Inqilab Moncho

convenor Sharif Osman bin Hadi by Sept 27. The report in the high-profile case had been due on Thursday, but investigating officer Abdul Kader Bhuiyan, an assistant superintendent of police with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), failed to submit it. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jashita Islam set the new date after the report could not be filed, Prosecution Division Sub-Inspector Md Rukunuzzaman said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **ACC denies order to seize ex-president Shahabuddin's assets:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has said reports that an order was issued to seize the immovable assets and freeze the movable assets of former president Mohammed Sahabuddin are incorrect. The commission said several media outlets mistakenly linked a court order concerning the assets of another person named Sahabuddin with the former president. ACC Public Relations Officer Tanzir Ahmed confirmed the matter to Daily Sun on Thursday. "Although the names are the same, it was not appropriate to publish the news without verifying whether they referred to the same person," he said adding that their address and age are also different (*Daily Sun*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Obaidul Quader says No crime will go unpunished:** Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, who fled to India after the political changeover on August 5, 2024, said on Thursday that 'history will not forgive the sinners' and that 'no crime will go unpunished.' Quader, also a former road transport and bridges minister, made the remarks on his verified Facebook page, apparently criticising his political opponents. The activities of the Awami League and its affiliates remain suspended pending the trial of the party and its leaders over alleged atrocities committed during the 2024 mass uprising that ousted the AL regime. Quader has been in the headlines in recent days as he faces trial in absentia over alleged crimes against humanity during the student-led mass uprising. The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Monday concluded hearings in the case against Quader and six others over their alleged roles in committing atrocities during the mass uprising (*New Age*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ruhul Kabir Rizvi made BNP acting secretary general:** Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Standing Committee member Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has been appointed as the acting secretary general of the party. According to a press release posted on the BNP Facebook page on Thursday, the appointment was made in accordance with Section 7 (b) (6) of the BNP's constitution. The press release, signed by Assistant Office Secretary Muhammad Munir Hossain, stated that the appointment will take effect immediately. The post of BNP secretary general fell vacant after Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir resigned from the post recently as the party nominated BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as the candidate of the presidential election. **Bangladesh will welcome a friendly invitation from India if it comes without any conditions or vested interests, BNP Standing Committee member and Prime Minister's Political Adviser Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said on Wednesday.** He said Bangladesh wants to maintain friendly relations with all countries based on mutual respect and recognition of their independence and sovereignty. He stressed that bilateral friendship cannot be built on conditions or demands. **On ties with India, Rizvi said Dhaka would welcome an invitation from New Delhi if it were extended in a friendly manner without any conditions or vested interests. Rizvi said a relationship cannot be considered genuine friendship if it comes with specific demands or hidden interests. He also said the prime minister would maintain Bangladesh's relations with other countries in line with the principles of mutual respect and sovereignty** (*Prothom Alo*, [20 August 2026](#); *Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [19 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Mirza Fakhrul becomes 23rd president of Bangladesh:** BNP candidate Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has been elected the 23rd president of Bangladesh. He received 255 votes, while Oli Ahmed, the candidate of the 11-party alliance, received 88 votes. Chief Election Commissioner A M M Nasir Uddin declared Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir the winner. **Out of 349 lawmakers, 343 cast their ballots in the presidential election held this afternoon at the Jatiya Sangsad.** The MPs who did not vote are BNP's Mirza Abbas, Osman Faruk, and Mostafa Kamal Pasha; expelled Jamaat leader Gazi Nazrul Islam; Khelafat Majlis leader Abul Hasan; and independent MP Rumeen Farhana, according to the Parliament Secretariat and the Election Commission. Khelafat Majlis Secretary General Ahmad Abdul Kader told The Daily Star that their leader Abul Hasan could not cast his vote in the presidential election as he is currently in the UK (*Prothom Alo*, [20 August 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Congratulations pour in for Fakhrul:** Congratulations poured in from political leaders, foreign missions and prominent figures on Thursday evening after Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was elected Bangladesh's 23rd president, with messages expressing hopes that the veteran politician would uphold democracy, justice and the dignity of the country's highest constitutional office. Nobel laureate [Professor Muhammad Yunus](#), [Prime Minister Tarique Rahman](#), Opposition Leader Dr Shafiqur Rahman and Fakhrul's presidential rival [Col \(retd\) Oli Ahmad](#) were among those congratulating him, while [China](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) were among the first foreign partners to publicly welcome his election. [Jamaat-e-Islami](#), the main opposition party in parliament, said it expects Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir to remain impartial after taking oath as the president of Bangladesh and play a strong role in favour of the country, its people and democracy. "We congratulate him. As the elected president is the president of all citizens, we hope that after taking the oath, he will act impartially and not favour any political party," Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Jamaat Nayebe-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher told reporters at the Jatiya Sangsad premises this evening (*Dhaka Tribune*, [21 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Next presidential election under amended Article 70:** The government has taken an initiative to amend the much-debated Article 70 of the Constitution, and future presidential elections will be held in accordance with the amended provision, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said. He made the remarks while speaking to journalists about the presidential election on Thursday. The Home Minister said that after nearly 35 years, the country is holding a constitutionally competitive presidential election, with a candidate from an opposition party also contesting the race. He said such competition is crucial to a democratic system and expressed hope that the practice would continue in the future. Such elections, he said, would allow the people to see a genuine reflection of the democratic practices they expect. **Regarding the constitutional amendment, the minister said the opposition had not yet joined the committee formed for the purpose** (*Daily Sun*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **9 held in Islami Jubo Andolan leader's killing, highway blockade lifted in N'ganj:** Police today detained nine suspects, including the prime suspect, over the killing of an Islami Jubo Andolan leader in Narayanganj's Bandar on Thursday night. Bulbul Ahmed, 35, of Shahi Mosque area of Ward 21 and the joint secretary of the Bandar (West) unit of Islami Jubo Andolan, was killed in an attack allegedly carried out by members of a local teen gang, said police and party men. The killing ignited protests this morning and demonstrators blocked a section of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway for two hours. The blockade was finally lifted at 11:00am after police assured protesters that nine people, including the key suspect, were in custody over the murder. Among the detainees were Sheikh Sifat, alias "Kata Sifat", a suspected leader of a teen gang (*The Daily Star*, [21 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **BD to retain duty-free mkt access to UK after LDC exit:** Bangladeshi exporters will continue to enjoy preferential access to the UK market after Bangladesh graduates from the least-developed-country status, the United Kingdom has assured. **Economists say the UK's decision provides Bangladesh with valuable policy space and greater certainty on the cusp of transition from the world's poor-country club.** A letter from the British mission in Bangladesh says 92 per cent of goods will continue to qualify for duty-free access without the need for Bangladesh to negotiate a separate trade agreement with the UK. Bangladesh currently enjoys tariff-free access for 99.8 per cent of goods exported to the UK under the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). **According to the communication in writing, Bangladesh will retain its existing market access for three years after its LDC graduation, providing exporters with a transition period before moving to a new preferential arrangement.** Following the transition period, Bangladesh will move to the Enhanced Preferences tier of the DCTS, under which 92 per cent of goods will continue to qualify for duty-free access without requiring further renegotiation (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BIDA survey to map investment barriers, untapped sector potential:** The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and technical assistance from the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), is conducting a nationwide survey to build a comprehensive database of industrial establishments, investors, employment and investment opportunities. **The initiative aims to identify challenges faced by investors, map regional investment potential and provide policymakers with reliable data for evidence-based decisions.** A divisional workshop on the 'Survey of Industries in Bangladesh' was held in Chattogram on Wednesday, as part of a series of eight workshops. The survey will consolidate information currently held by different government agencies, investment promotion bodies, chambers and business associations. SANEM Executive Director Selim Raihan said a unified database covering domestic and foreign investment would help identify priority sectors, track industrial developments and improve BIDA's One Stop Service (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [21 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Foreign adviser says PM's first India visit should be bilateral:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's first visit to India should be a bilateral visit rather than a meeting on the sidelines of multilateral platforms such as BRICS or the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), PM's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir said on Thursday. **"The first visit should be bilateral. We should invite each other to our homes, understand?" he said, describing Bangladesh and India as two important countries.** Talking to private TV channels at his office, Adviser Kobir said any visit should have a clear outcome, with mutual respect and engagement in place. **"There are issues related to the interests of the two countries, and these are not something to rush into," he said. "When we see that the timing is right, we are willing to visit."** He said groundwork needs to be done on several issues before the two sides can reach a consensus. The adviser said that in recent days, Bangladesh has seen a fairly positive conversation from India, along with a strong realisation on the Indian side that the events of August 5 have deeply affected the sentiments of the people of Bangladesh. **"If India truly means resetting relations, then it must realise today's Bangladesh," Kobir said, noting that "in today's Bangladesh, a**

terrorist like Sheikh Hasina or her party does not exist.” “So, by recognizing this reality, we have to take the relationship forward,” the adviser said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **India promises action after 7 Bangladeshis killed in Kolkata hotel fire:** India has assured that “whatever needs to be done” will be taken up following the deaths of seven Bangladeshi nationals in a devastating Kolkata hotel fire, but its top diplomat in Dhaka on Thursday did not respond to questions over possible negligence or an investigation into the tragedy. Nine people, including seven Bangladeshis, were killed after a fire broke out at a hotel near New Market in Kolkata, West Bengal, on Wednesday. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi described the deaths as very sad while speaking to reporters after a courtesy meeting with Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Hossain at the Secretariat. Trivedi said: “It’s very sad. We will certainly do whatever needs to be done.” However, when journalists asked whether negligence had contributed to the fire and whether Indian authorities would investigate the incident, the high commissioner did not respond. **The silence on those questions comes as attention turns to the circumstances surrounding the fire and the deaths of the seven Bangladeshis.** Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Hossain said his meeting with the Indian envoy was purely a courtesy call and that the deaths of the Bangladeshis were not discussed. The meeting also touched on a possible visit to India by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **China ready to work with all Bangladesh parties:** Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Thursday said that China stood ready to strengthen cooperation with all political parties in Bangladesh. He made the remarks when members of the newly established sub-committee for international relations of the National Citizen Party met him at the Chinese embassy in Dhaka. The two sides exchanged views on Bangladesh-China relations, inter-party exchanges and youth cooperation, among other issues of common interest, said the Chinese embassy in the capital. Ambassador Yao congratulated the NCP on the establishment of its sub-committee for international relations. **Yao expressed hope that the NCP sub-committee for international relations would play a constructive role in promoting friendly exchanges between the two countries and the two parties.** NCP spokesperson and chairman of the sub-committee for international relations, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan said that the party was ready to work with China to deepen friendly exchanges and cooperation between the political parties and younger generations of the two countries, and make positive contributions to the development of Bangladesh-China friendship. The meeting focused on Bangladesh-China bilateral relations, regional developments, and areas of mutual interest, NCP said (*New Age*, [21 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Humaion, MSF chief discuss stronger humanitarian health cooperation:** Prime Minister’s Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaion Kobir and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International President Dr Mohammed Javid Abdelmoneim discussed strengthening cooperation in humanitarian healthcare and emergency medical services in Bangladesh. The discussion took place when an MSF delegation, led by Abdelmoneim, met the adviser at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) here, according to a press release. During the meeting, the two sides discussed MSF’s ongoing humanitarian and medical activities in Bangladesh, emergency healthcare, medical assistance during humanitarian crises and ways to further strengthen the organisation’s operations in the country. **The discussions placed particular emphasis on enhancing Bangladesh’s capacity to provide emergency medical and humanitarian healthcare services** (*BSS News*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BSEC, World Bank discuss feasibility of mortgage refinance company:** The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and a World Bank Group delegation discussed the feasibility of establishing a Mortgage Refinance Company in Bangladesh, with a focus on expanding housing finance and deepening the capital market. The meeting was held on Tuesday at the BSEC Commission Meeting Room and was chaired by BSEC chairman Masud Khan, said a press release. The meeting reviewed the feasibility of establishing the MRC, its potential institutional structure and its possible role in developing Bangladesh's housing finance and capital markets. The participants exchanged views on how an MRC could help deepen the primary mortgage market by providing long-term refinancing facilities to financial institutions. They also discussed the potential for mobilising capital market resources to support housing finance (*New Age*, [21 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Army chief says Rohingya crisis deepening economic, environmental strain:** Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said on Thursday that the Rohingya crisis is placing significant pressure on the country's environment and economy, while drug trafficking, smuggling and other crimes continue in the affected areas. He made the remarks while addressing the closing ceremony of the Capstone Course at the National Defence College (NDC) auditorium in Mirpur Cantonment on Thursday noon. Outlining the challenges facing the country, the Army chief pointed to border issues, relations with neighbouring countries, unrest in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and the energy crisis, alongside the Rohingya situation. He said the course participants had exchanged experiences and expert knowledge on these issues, which would help them contribute more effectively to addressing the country's problems in their respective fields. He added that such problems cannot be solved overnight and that bringing distinguished individuals to the NDC for courses like this enriches both the participants and the institution through the sharing of experiences (*Daily Sun*, [21 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CAAB steps up cyber security ahead of ICAO audit:** The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has intensified cyber security and risk-management measures at the country's airports as part of preparations for the upcoming ICAO security audit. The measures were highlighted at the second meeting of the Civil Aviation Threat and Risk Assessment Committee (CATRAC), held at CAAB headquarters, said a press release. It was informed that cyber security has been incorporated into the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP) and Airport Security Programme (ATSP), while CAAB has initiated steps to issue Civil Aviation Cyber Security Directives. CAAB has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Computer Council's e-Government Computer Incident Response Team (e-Gov CIRT) to conduct cyber security audits. The country's airports have been designated as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), while CAAB is receiving regular guidance from the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), the release said. The CAAB Chairman said the civil aviation sector currently faces multidimensional security challenges, including terrorism, cyber risks, insider threats, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and drone attacks (*BSS News*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **87 Bangladeshis among 112 migrants detained in Malaysia:** Malaysian immigration police have detained 112 migrants, including 87 Bangladeshis, during raids on several establishments in Kajang, Selangor state. The migrants were detained during four separate operations conducted by the Selangor Immigration Department (JIM) from Wednesday morning. Twenty immigration officers carried out the operations, named Ops Belanja, Ops

Minyak, Ops Mahir and Ops Selera, from 9:00 am, according to the department. **The officers checked the documents and immigration status of 114 migrants and detained 112 of them for alleged violations of immigration laws.** Mohammad Khusairi Kamaruddin, deputy director of the Selangor Immigration Department (Enforcement), said the **detainees included 87 Bangladeshis, 13 Indonesians, five Myanmar nationals and seven Pakistanis.** They were aged between 14 and 52. Of the 112 detainees, 98 were men and 14 were women (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [21 August 2026](#)).



*[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views or interpretations expressed by various Bangladeshi commentators we make available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Bangladesh Watch (DBW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the existing thought process in Bangladesh having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Bangladesh in a more effective manner. DBW is curated by **Dr. Ankita Sanyal, Research Fellow, CPS**]*