

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

24 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Safiqur Rahman says PM may visit India, but ties must rest on equality and respect:** Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has said the prime minister may visit any country, including neighbouring India, but such visits should be based on equality, mutual respect and friendship. **“The people of this country will no longer accept anyone’s hegemony. They want relations with India based on friendship, mutual respect and equality,”** he said while addressing a conference of Rajshahi city Jamaat-e-Islami members (Rukn) at the district council auditorium this afternoon, according to a press release from the party’s central publicity department. Shafiqur Rahman said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is both the head of government and the head of his party, and can crack down on extortion, corruption and bribery currently prevalent in the country if he wants to (*The Daily Star*, [21 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat ameer says ‘2024 was a rehearsal for the final battle’:** Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman today said the 2024 mass uprising should not be seen as the “final battle”, but rather as a “rehearsal for the final battle” ahead. **“Not all those who rose up in 2024 have died, nor have they gone to sleep. They are watching everything with vigilant eyes. An army is formed before the main battle; it must train and rehearse. They should not consider 2024 the final battle. It was a rehearsal for the final battle,”** he said. The Jamaat chief was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled “The Prophet’s (PBUH) Principles and Ideals for State Reform” at the Institution of Diploma Engineers auditorium in Dhaka. “Fascism is not associated with any particular party. Fascism is a contagious disease. It spreads from one place to another. Whoever this virus infects becomes a fascist,” he said. Accusing the government of following the path of the ousted regime, he said, **“We can see that the current government is following the same path as the fascist government.”** The people of Bangladesh would not allow anyone to follow this path, he said, urging the government to refrain from doing so (*The Daily Star*, [23 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rashed Khan says India must stop border killings, push-ins:** Prime minister’s political assistant Rashed Khan on Saturday said that India must stop border killings and alleged push-ins of people into Bangladesh to maintain friendly relations between the two countries. **‘Bangladesh wants good relations with India as a neighbouring country. But the relationship must be based on mutual respect, equality and national interest,’** Rashed said while speaking to journalists after a meeting with doctors and nurses at Jhenaidah 250-bed General Hospital. **He said that no country could maintain a relationship with another country unilaterally. ‘The killings of Bangladeshi citizens along the border and incidents of forcibly sending people into Bangladesh are harmful to relations between the two countries. India must play a responsible role in these matters.’** Bangladesh wanted friendly relations with all its neighbours, Rashed added. Asked about former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, he said that there was no scope for her return to Bangladesh (*New Age*, [23 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Sarjis Alam slates India's statements:** National Citizen Party chief organiser for North Sarjis Alam has described recent statements made by India on Bangladesh as statements of **hegemony**. He made the remarks at an organisational coordination meeting and political workshop of the NCP Cox's Bazar district unit at the auditorium of Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre on Saturday afternoon. Bangladesh should maintain normal and mutually beneficial relations with India, but such relations must be based on dignity, justice, equality, and respect for each other's sovereignty, Sarjis said. He said, 'India has given shelter to Sheikh Hasina, who is accused and convicted in cases related to the genocide in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has called on India to extradite her and cooperate with the judicial process. Similarly, those accused in the Hadi murder case must also be handed over.' Sarjis also questioned India's recent statements following an alleged sudden and secret visit by the chief of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Bangladesh prime minister Tarique Rahman's subsequent visit to China. 'Statements saying that "Bangladesh prime minister Tarique Rahman must visit India now and that there will be losses if he visits later" are not a sign of respectful behaviour towards an independent and sovereign country,' he said. The NCP, Sarjis said, welcomed two recent statements issued by Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, describing them as strong positions. However, these positions should not remain limited to statements. They should also be reflected in practical actions, he further said, adding that Bangladesh had no objection if India wanted to build relations with Bangladesh based on equality, dignity, justice and mutual interests. 'But any attempt to build relations based on the interests of an individual, a political party or subservience will not be sustainable,' he also said (*New Age*, [23 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **'Towhidi Janata' demands halt to traditional boat race in Sylhet:** A group using the banner 'Towhidi Janata' has called for a traditional boat race on the Sunai River in Sylhet's Beanibazar to be cancelled, setting up a dispute with organisers who say the event will go ahead on Aug 28. According to sources, local youths from Lautā and Bahadur villages have been preparing for the annual boat race, which traditionally attracts thousands of spectators and creates a festive atmosphere in the riverside communities. According to her, the opposing group cited a killing that occurred in connection with last year's boat race as the reason for their demand. The Beanibazar upazila administration in Sylhet has said that the annual boat race in the upazila, scheduled for August 28, will be held as planned despite protests announced by a group of Islamists demanding its cancellation. Local people said that the annual boat race on the Sonai River in Lautā union had been organised for decades without any trouble and that people in the area enjoyed it as a festive occasion. Concerns are growing over activities carried out under the banner of "Tawhidi Janata", as groups identifying themselves by the name have recently opposed cultural programmes and other public events in different parts of the country. The dispute in Beanibazar comes amid a series of recent controversies involving cultural programmes and religious gatherings (*Dhaka Tribune*, [22 August 2026](#); *New Age*, [22 August 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [23 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **DU lists 58 teachers over alleged 'anti-state' activities, VC claims listing done for 'NSI':** Dhaka University authorities have identified 58 teachers who are alleged to have been involved in "secret anti-state activities" to bring former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who is living in exile in India, back to Bangladesh. Questions have been raised, however, about the process through which the teachers were identified. Legal experts say that the state has agencies to take action against anyone involved in anti-state activities, and forming a university committee for such a purpose is contrary to law. They also say a university cannot take action

against someone merely because of the political ideology they nurture. Some have described preparing a list of teachers over allegations of “secret anti-state activities” as an example of “administrative politics”. In a notice issued by the Public Relations Office on Aug 13, the university said its authorities had come across a report published in various media outlets about “secret activities” by 404 teachers from 22 universities aimed at bringing fugitive convict Hasina back to the country and reviving a political party whose activities have been banned. The notice said the report claimed that 92 DU teachers were involved in such secret activities. “Of them, the names of 58 teachers have already been identified,” it said (*bdnews24.com*, [23 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Cabinet reshuffle: Who gets which ministry?:** Six months after the formation of his government, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has reshuffled his cabinet. Four new ministers have joined, one of whom was previously a state minister. Two others have been sworn in as new state ministers, one of whom was previously an advisor to the prime minister. **BNP Standing Committee Member and Narsingdi-2 MP Abdul Moyeen Khan, Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman and Bhola-1 MP Andaleev Rahman, and Bandarban MP Sa Ching Prue Jerry took their oaths as ministers, while State Minister for Aviation and Tourism Rashiduzzaman Millat was promoted to the rank of minister. Meanwhile, Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Advisor Humaiun Kobir and Gaibandha-4 MP Mohammad Shamim Kaiser Lincoln took oaths as state ministers.** Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was sworn in as the new president at a Bangabhaban event on Friday evening. Immediately afterwards, he administered the oaths to four ministers and two state ministers (*bdnews24.com*, [21 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Cabinet reshuffle: Tarique walks the old path:** Six months into the government, the Cabinet reshuffle has failed to bring any fundamental change to the structure of power, with politicians and analysts saying Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has followed the familiar patterns of previous administrations. Despite promises of building a new Bangladesh, they said the selection of ministers, allocation of portfolios, concentration of authority and retention of controversial figures showed little sign of a new political culture. **The concerns resurfaced after four ministers and two state ministers were sworn in on Friday, further expanding the Cabinet. Analysts questioned whether such a large Cabinet and advisory council were justified amid a fragile post-uprising economy. They said the expanded Cabinet and growing number of advisers contradicted the prime minister's pre-election pledge to reduce government expenditure.** They also argued that the absence of meaningful reforms had prevented a balance of power, allowing decision-making authority to remain concentrated in one person's hands. **Questions have also emerged over whether merit or political considerations guided the allocation of ministries. Several ministers facing criticism over controversies and alleged irregularities have retained their positions, raising questions over whether the six-month review was based on performance or political loyalty and party calculations** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [23 August 2026](#)).

◆ **'Reconciliation' in manifestos, absent from discussions:** Several political parties had pledged in their manifestos for the 13th parliamentary election to form a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to resolve conflict, discord and divisions in the country. The initiative was intended to establish a forward-looking political culture and reconciliation in place of a politics of vengeance and retaliation. However, six months have passed since the parliamentary election, and no such commission has been formed. There has not even been

any discussion of the issue in parliament or in the political arena. A review of the election manifestos shows that the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP) pledged to establish such a commission in the latest national election. The BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami called it a Truth and Healing Commission, while the NCP pledged to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Earlier, in its manifesto for the 11th parliamentary election in 2018, the Jatiya Oikya Front had pledged to form an “all-party truth-finding and reconciliation commission.” Political parties say the government has been in office for six months and there is still time. Besides, the Awami League, whose activities are currently banned, has not yet admitted to any wrongdoing. Instead, the party continues to issue threats. Under such circumstances, they say, it is not possible to form such a commission. **Political analysts say the interim government had also talked about such a commission. Various political parties subsequently included similar pledges in their manifestos. But these remain merely “words on paper.”** No one appears to be taking them seriously (*Prothom Alo*, [23 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Moyeen says Local govt polls to be held on time following rules:** Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan has announced that the government will complete local elections on time, adhering to constitutional processes and rules. He made the remarks in response to a question from journalists at Secretariat on his first day in office on Sunday. **Moyeen said his ministry wants to work with a commitment to serving the country’s people, giving them priority, especially the poor. Regarding accountability, he noted that if there is any corruption under the Local Government Ministry, the Anti-Corruption Commission will investigate the matter, and the Local Government Division will take overall initiatives in this regard.** Moyeen added that BNP does not believe in the politics of vengeance but in the politics of law. He emphasised that the government genuinely wants to restore a democratic system in the country (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [23 August 2026](#)).

◆ **PM directs pilot project to launch National e-Health Platform:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Saturday directed the authorities to launch a pilot project in several districts as part of plans to introduce a National E-Health Platform to bring the country’s healthcare system under an integrated digital framework. The issue was discussed at a meeting on an integrated information technology system for the health sector at the Prime Minister’s Office in Tejgaoni in the afternoon. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman chaired the meeting. The meeting discussed the proposed structure and operating mechanism of the National E-Health Platform and its potential use in healthcare. **Initially, the platform will be piloted in several districts to assess its effectiveness, potential challenges, costs and feasibility.** The government plans to gradually expand the platform after reviewing the experience and outcomes of the pilot project. The prime minister directed the authorities to ensure effective use of information technology in healthcare (*Daily Sun*, [22 August 2026](#)).

◆ **PM calls for fair, merit-based promotions in navy, air force:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today directed members of the navy and air force selection boards to ensure that officers are considered for promotion based on professional competence and merit, keeping political ideology and personal likes or dislikes aside. He said professional skills, leadership qualities, discipline, integrity, loyalty and overall suitability for appointment should be given priority in evaluating officers for promotion. The prime minister gave the directive while inaugurating the “Navy and Air Force Selection Boards-2026” at Bangladesh Air Force Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment. Eligible officers of the Bangladesh Navy, including Captains, Commanders

and Lieutenant Commanders, and Bangladesh Air Force officers holding the ranks of Group Captain, Wing Commander and Squadron Leader, will be considered for promotion by the boards, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Jahidul Islam Rony (*The Daily Star*, [23 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **11-party alliance says public trust in govt has hit 'rock bottom':** The Jamaat-led 11-party alliance on Sunday said that public trust in the government had hit rock bottom over the last six months. Top leaders of the alliance met at the official residence of the leader of the opposition on Dhaka's Minto Road, after which Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP) and opposition chief whip, shared the alliance's assessment at a press briefing. **"It all started with the failure to implement the public mandate of the referendum and the refusal to take oath for the Constitution Reform Council,"** the opposition chief whip said. "Upon returning to the country, Tarique Rahman claimed that he had a plan to stabilise both the nation and the economy. **It is now evident that the government's entire 180 days have been rife with mismanagement,"** he said. The NCP convener said load-shedding was affecting the entire country, including the capital, and had reached the highest levels in the nation's history. He said hundreds of factories were shutting down amid fuel and gas shortages, leaving business owners deeply concerned. "On one hand, they face the burden of extortion, on the other, they are not receiving gas and electricity. Meanwhile, a fertiliser crisis has emerged, severely affecting farmers. **"While the overall situation of the country is in this state, the government, instead of acknowledging these issues, is trying to paint a picture of 180 days of success, which is outright deception,"** he said (*The Daily Star*, [24 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Finance Minister says Bangladesh dedicated fund worth \$2b to be floated in Hong Kong:** Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today said a US\$2 billion Bangladesh-dedicated fund will be launched in Hong Kong as equity investment, not a loan, as part of the government's efforts to develop alternative sources of financing, revive the capital market and reduce dependence on conventional borrowing. "We are going to have a dedicated fund for Bangladesh in Hong Kong. It will be a \$2 billion Bangladesh-dedicated fund. This is equity and not a loan and we're going to float the Bangladesh dedicated fund in Hong Kong, Insha Allah," he said. The finance minister was speaking at a seminar on "Biannual Economic State in FY2026: Fiscal & Monetary Perspective and Private Sector Expectations" as the chief guest, organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at its auditorium in the capita. Khosru said the initiative would provide an alternative channel for mobilising international capital for Bangladesh at a time when the government is seeking to reduce pressure on domestic financing sources. **He said Bangladesh has been exploring alternative financing because the country's capital market had remained weak for a considerable period and private-sector access to financing needed to be strengthened** (*BSS News*, [22 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **India seeks new charge on electricity exports to Bangladesh:** Bangladesh regularly imports electricity from India. India has now sought to impose a new charge on the electricity it exports to Bangladesh, demanding 0.005 Indian rupees per unit. If the charge is added, the cost of imported electricity will increase. However, delays in reaching an agreement over the charge could disrupt electricity imports from India. The Ministry of Power, Energy and

Mineral Resources has sought the Finance Ministry's opinion on signing a new agreement. In a letter sent to the Finance Division on 18 August, the Power Division said a Settlement Nodal Agency (SNA) agreement needs to be signed between the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN), an Indian state-owned company. Any delay in signing the agreement could create complications in importing 1,160 megawatts of electricity through NVVN, it said. According to BPDB sources, India has proposed the charge to cover the costs of scheduling the amount of electricity to be supplied at different times, collecting consumption data from meters, reconciling supply and consumption figures, and operating the grid (*Prothom Alo*, [23 August 2026](#)).

◆ **India's STAR Cancer Centre launches online guidance centre for Bangladeshi patients:** STAR Cancer Centre, a specialised unit of STAR Hospitals in Hyderabad of India, on Sunday launched an online free second-opinion clinic and guidance centre for patients in Bangladesh. **'The initiative aims to eliminate treatment uncertainty by offering structured case evaluations, multidisciplinary tumour board reviews, and clear therapeutic road maps for complex conditions such as breast, lung, cervical, oesophageal, and gastrointestinal cancers,' said a press release issued by the hospital.** 'A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming for patients and their families, often leading to crucial decisions being made under immense pressure,' said Dr Vipin Goel, senior consultant and head of surgical oncology at STAR Hospitals. Under the initiative, senior oncologists and organ-specific specialists across medical, surgical and radiation disciplines will review patient files prior to cross-border travel. The centre will also provide end-to-end medical travel assistance, including cost estimates, stay duration planning and visa support (*New Age*, [24 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Tenders fail to secure enough LNG amid gas crisis:** The government is struggling to secure liquefied natural gas (LNG) as none of the cargoes ordered through the direct procurement method (DPM) have arrived. With LNG unavailable as needed, the government has had to buy cargoes at higher prices in emergency tenders, increasing the cost of one cargo by at least Tk 1.65 billion. Petrobangla oversees LNG imports with approval from the Energy Division, while its subsidiary Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) is responsible for importing the fuel. **Three officials involved in LNG supply told Prothom Alo that LNG prices are rising with every tender. They said LNG could have been purchased at lower prices had tenders been invited earlier instead of using the DPM.** According to Petrobangla and RPGCL sources, tenders were invited on 17 August to purchase three LNG cargoes for August and two for the first week of September. British Petroleum (BP) emerged as the lowest bidder for two cargoes, quoting less than USD 22 per unit. A second tender was called on 18 August for three more cargoes, with Saudi Aramco emerging as the lowest bidder for the 1–2 September cargo at below USD 24. In a third tender on 19 August, BP offered USD 25.31 for the 26–27 August cargo. The government decided not to buy the 29–30 August cargo because bids were even higher (*Prothom Alo*, [24 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

◆ **Press Secretary says No decision yet on PM's India visit:** Bangladesh has not yet taken any decision regarding Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India, as Dhaka awaits a response from New Delhi to concerns recently raised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "No decision has been made yet (regarding the PM's visit)," Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abu Abdullah M Saleh (Saleh Shibly) told UNB on Friday. The Indian Express, an Indian daily

newspaper, reported on Friday that the Prime Minister is likely to visit New Delhi between August 23 and 25. Meanwhile, shortly after issuing a statement indicating preparations at Rashtrapati Bhavan for a possible visit by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, India withdrew it on Friday. In a press release issued on Friday afternoon, the Indian President's Secretariat said the Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan would not be held on Saturday (August 22) due to a full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the Bangladeshi prime minister. The statement was posted by India's Press Information Bureau at 2:25pm but was later recalled (*Dhaka Tribune*, [21 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Humaion says No rush on PM's India visit, national interest comes first:** Newly appointed State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir on Saturday said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will visit India at an appropriate time following progress in discussions, with the country's national interests being given priority. He said the government wants to maintain a positive and effective relationship with India, but Bangladesh cannot move forward with relations with any country by compromising its national interests. **"There are more criminals who have fled to India. This is a natural demand of the people of Bangladesh and a matter of their sentiment. We want to engage with India by giving priority to this process," Kobir said. "We will engage with India. We want a positive relationship. But it has to be done by prioritising Bangladesh's national interests," he said, adding that there is no rush over the Prime Minister's India visit. "If we reach an agreement based on our national interests tomorrow, we can go [to India] next week, or the week after. There is no rush here," the state minister said. He said necessary preparations and discussions are required before a visit at the prime ministerial level. "There are issues to discuss and preparations to make. A prime ministerial-level visit is not something that can just happen suddenly. This is not a game," Kobir said. He said the two sides need to establish the necessary preparations and groundwork before a meeting between the heads of government. "We are doing exactly that," he said. The state minister said Bangladesh is receiving indications of a positive attitude and goodwill from India, noting that it has also acknowledged the sentiments of the people of Bangladesh (*Dhaka Tribune*, [22 August 2026](#)).**

◆ **Humaion says Hasina is a fugitive criminal:** Newly appointed State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir has described ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina as a "fugitive criminal" who fled to India after the killing of 1,500 people. He made the remarks while speaking to journalists after paying tribute to the martyrs at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar on Saturday. Responding to a question about Hasina and others who have fled to India, Humaion said: "Sheikh Hasina is a fugitive criminal. She went to India after killing 1,500 people. Not only her, there are others who are criminals and have fled to India." "This is a natural demand, so that we engage with India through that process," he said. **On Bangladesh-India relations, the state minister said Bangladesh wanted a positive relationship with its neighbor. Commenting on Hasina's recent press conference, Humaion said: "Sheikh Hasina's press conference has hurt people's sentiments. And we will proceed based on the national interest" (*Dhaka Tribune*, [22 August 2026](#)).**

◆ **Congratulations pour in for President Fakhrul:** Indian President Droupadi Murmu has congratulated Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on his assumption of office as President of Bangladesh, expressing confidence in his successful tenure. "I look forward to working with you to further strengthen the partnership between our two neighbouring countries," she said. Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has congratulated Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on his

election as Bangladesh President and invited him to visit Pakistan to further strengthen bilateral relations. He expressed confidence that the visit would provide an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral ties and deepen cooperation between Dhaka and Islamabad. **Nepalese President Ramchandra Paudel today, Saturday, congratulated Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on his election as the 23rd President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.** President Paudel expressed hope that the close and cordial relations between the two neighbouring countries would continue to grow in the days ahead. **Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has extended his congratulations on behalf of the government and people of the Maldives to newly elected Bangladeshi President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.** He expressed strong confidence that under President Mirza Fakhrul's leadership, bilateral cooperation will continue to expand in depth and scope, bringing the two nations even closer in the years ahead (Prothom Alo, [21 August 2026](#), [21 August 2026](#), [22 August 2026](#), [22 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Bihar concerns to be raised during Bangladesh-India water treaty renewals, says Jaishankar:**

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has assured Bihar that the state's concerns over the Farakka Barrage and the India-Bangladesh water-sharing treaty will be discussed during the treaty renewal process, the Times of India reports. **The neighbouring South Asian countries are due to renew the treaty by the end of this year, said Vijay Kumar Choudhary, deputy chief minister and water resources minister, on Saturday.** Vijay had accompanied Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha to a meeting with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar in New Delhi on Friday. He said the centre had "responded positively" to Bihar's longstanding concerns. **The meeting focused on issues related to Bihar's water resources, irrigation, and flood management.** "Most of the water reaching the Farakka Barrage originates from catchment areas in Bihar, but the state has not received its due share for drinking water, irrigation, and industrial use," Vijay said, arguing the state's interests had been overlooked during the signing of the India-Bangladesh water-sharing treaty three decades ago (*bdnews24.com*, [23 August 2026](#)).

◆ **US court strikes down policy suspending immigrant visa processing for Bangladesh, 74 other nations:**

A US judge on Friday struck down a Trump administration policy suspending the issuance of immigrant visas to applicants from 75 countries, saying that the policy exceeded Secretary of State Marco Rubio's statutory authority. **US District Judge Jeannette Vargas in Manhattan said the policy that the State Department announced in January was "patently unlawful" and ran afoul of federal immigration law, which explicitly stripped the secretary of state of authority over consular officers' processing of immigrant visas.** "The Policy, which categorically prohibits the issuance of immigrant visas based upon the nationality of the applicant, represents a direct abrogation of this statutory scheme," she wrote. The State Department's suspension that also took effect in January impacted applicants from Latin American countries including Brazil, Colombia, and Uruguay; Balkan nations such as Bosnia and Albania; South Asian countries Pakistan and Bangladesh; and those from many nations in Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. The State Department said applicants from those countries were "at a high risk for becoming a public charge and recourse to local, state and federal government resources in the United States." The department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the ruling (*bdnews.com*, [22 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Tarique to address UN General Assembly during nine-day US visit:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is going to travel to the United States for the 81st UN General Assembly after visits to Malaysia and China. If plans stay on track, he could leave for New York on Sept 21 before travelling to San Francisco. Foreign ministry officials said preparations were under way for the nine-day trip, including securing US visas for members of his delegation. The foreign ministry has formally notified the US embassy in Dhaka through a note verbale. It will be Tarique's first address to the UN General Assembly as prime minister, officials said. He is also expected to attend several events on the sidelines of the session. In San Francisco, he is scheduled to meet Bangladeshi expatriates at an exchange meeting. Tarique's UN appearance will come as Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman takes over as president of the General Assembly on Sept 8. Meanwhile, discussions over a possible bilateral visit by Tarique to India have not progressed. His Press Secretary Saleh Shibli told Reuters on Friday that Bangladesh had yet to make a decision (*bdnews24.com*, [23 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **46 held for Sundarban forest crimes in 2 months:** Forty six people were detained in connection with forest crimes in the western Sundarban during the last two months, while forest officials filed 89 cases and seized 30 kilograms of venison and around 1,500 metres of deer-catching traps. According to the forest department, forest guards conducted 108 drives in June and July under the Khulna and Satkhira ranges of Sundarban west forest division. Sundarban west forest division divisional forest officer AZM Hasnur Rahman said that forest crimes in western Sundarban declined over the last two months compared with the corresponding period last year. He said that regular patrols by forest guards to prevent illegal entry, fishing and wildlife hunting had contributed to reducing forest-related crimes in the mangrove forest (*New Age*, [22 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB seizes Indian drugs, goods, buffaloes in six border drives:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a large quantity of Indian contraband goods and drugs, along with five buffaloes, in six separate drives conducted along the border on 21 and 22 August. The BGB disclosed the seizures in six press releases issued tonight. In Jhenaidah, members of Maheshpur Battalion (58 BGB) recovered 43 bottles of Indian liquor from a banana orchard in Gopalpur area, about 100 yards inside Bangladesh from Border Pillar No. 47/4-S under Jadabpur BOP, around 5:30am today. No one was arrested. In Brahmanbaria and Cumilla, Sultanpur Battalion (60 BGB) seized Indian Red Bull energy drinks, olive oil, fuchka, basmati rice, fireworks, cattle, suit fabrics, three-piece dresses, liquor, beer, cannabis and motorcycles in separate operations at different border points. The estimated value of the seized goods was Tk25,42,300. Chuadanga Battalion (6 BGB) recovered 78 bottles of Indian liquor, 25 bottles of Eskuf syrup, 900 grams of Indian cannabis, 800 cyproheptadine tablets and 9,040 dexamethasone tablets from its operational areas. The seized items were valued at Tk30,82,150. Meanwhile, Khulna Battalion (21 BGB) seized 111 bottles of Indian Eskuf syrup from the Daulatpur BOP area, while Mahananda Battalion (59 BGB) recovered 66 bottles of Indian Eskuf syrup from the Shibganj border on 21 August. In Moulvibazar, a joint patrol of BGB and police seized five Indian buffaloes worth Tk5,10,000 from the Gaurnagar area. The smugglers fled into nearby bushes when the patrol team approached. The BGB said its anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations would continue along the border to prevent cross-border smuggling and illegal activities (*Daily Sun*, [23 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Indian man held with 3kg of Kush at Dhaka's Shahjalal airport:** An Indian national has been detained with 3kg of Kush at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Hossain Abdul Kader Sheikh was held at the Green Channel in the arrivals hall on the ground floor of the airport on Saturday afternoon, the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) said in a media statement at night. Kader, 48, who arrived in Dhaka from Bangkok on a Thai Airways flight, was detained on suspicious activity. His trolley bag was searched in the presence of officials from different agencies at the airport. **Three kilograms of Kush, a cannabis-derived drug, was found concealed under clothes inside the bag. A phone, \$400, 1,550 Thai baht and 400 Indian rupees were also seized from him. During preliminary questioning, the DNC learnt that several people in Bangladesh were allegedly involved in arranging accommodation for Kader and assisting him in trafficking the drugs. Kader is a resident of Karnataka state in India** (*bdnews24.com*, [23 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Chinese-linked crime rings take root in Dhaka:** Chinese nationals entering Bangladesh as tourists have been implicated in a series of organized crimes ranging from international drug trafficking and online fraud to the trafficking of Bangladeshi women, with recent law-enforcement operations exposing networks operating with local accomplices. Investigators say suspects have established bases mainly in Dhaka's Uttara, Bashundhara and Nikunja areas, while evidence from separate cases suggests some groups operate through transnational networks and rotate members in and out of Bangladesh on short-term visas. The latest major discovery came after the Department of Narcotics Control seized 50 grams of ketamine concealed inside a Bluetooth speaker at a Dhaka courier office on March 5. Investigators said the group allegedly received orders through the dark web, concealed drugs inside electronic devices for international shipment and used cryptocurrency, particularly the TRON network, for payments. Another network emerged on August 2 when Detective Branch police arrested three Chinese nationals and a Bangladeshi woman from Bashundhara over alleged online fraud, illegal VoIP and gambling operations. **The emerging cases now pose a broader challenge for law enforcement: determining whether they represent separate criminal groups or parts of wider transnational networks using Bangladesh as a base for drugs, cybercrime and human trafficking** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [23 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Navy Chief Khondkar Misbah ul Azim promoted to Admiral:** Bangladesh Navy Chief Vice Admiral Khondkar Misbah-ul-Azim has been promoted to the rank of Admiral. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman today adorned the Navy Chief with the Admiral rank badges at Air Headquarters, said an ISPR release this afternoon. The Prime Minister, the Head of the Government, congratulated the Navy Chief on the occasion (*BSS News*, [23 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CTTC probes emails seeking money from 5 missions, MoFA:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and five diplomatic missions in Bangladesh have received emails demanding money, prompting an investigation by the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, which suspects the messages may be hoaxes intended to put the government in a difficult position. The emails were sent under the name "Latbiya" to the ministry, the Chinese, Russian, Saudi and Turkish embassies, and the Pakistan High Commission, according to CTTC sources. A senior CTTC officer, speaking to the Daily Sun on condition of anonymity on Sunday, said the emails were sent on 17 August. However, another source said they were sent on 19 August. The sender asked the missions and the ministry to send money through a bKash number and in cryptocurrency, but did not specify an amount, the senior CTTC

officer said. Asked whether any radical outfit was behind the emails or whether they contained threats to attack the foreign missions or the ministry, the officer said no (*Daily Sun*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **US delegation to 'audit spending' at Rohingya camps in Bangladesh:** A US congressional staff-level delegation is set to visit Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman confirmed the 10-member delegation's visit, scheduled for Aug 26-28. He told bdnews24.com the trip was part of the US's routine rounds of delegation visits, with the team set to assess overall conditions at the Rohingya camps. "The US is the single largest funder of aid to the Rohingya. Washington's stance is to ensure its taxpayers' money is being spent properly. This visit is essentially aimed at seeing exactly how that money is being used," he added. Mizanur described the visit as something akin to an audit, with the delegation touring camps where US-funded programmes operate (bdnews24.com, [22 August 2026](#)).

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