

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

25 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **HRW urges Bangladesh to end prolonged pretrial detention of political opponents:** Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the Bangladesh government to take immediate steps to end the prolonged pretrial detention of politicians and others linked to the deposed Awami League government, saying hundreds remain in prison without being charged with any crime. **In a statement issued on Sunday, the international rights organisation said thousands of Awami League officials, activists and supporters were detained after Sheikh Hasina was forced to step down as prime minister in August 2024 following weeks of protests. It said hundreds remain in detention.** HRW acknowledged that some former government officials may have been involved in serious rights violations under the Hasina government. However, it said many detainees were arrested without apparent evidence on allegations of murdering protesters. Families and lawyers of the detainees have alleged that many, including elderly people and those with serious health conditions, have been denied basic rights such as bail and adequate medical care, HRW said. **At least 10 Awami League officeholders, most of whom had not been charged with any crime, have died in prison since Prime Minister Tarique Rahman took office in February 2026, according to the organisation.** HRW also criticised the government's proposed National Human Rights Commission bill, saying that if adopted in its current form, it would prevent the new commission from investigating allegations of arbitrary arrests (*Prothom Alo*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CJA condemns tribunal move against 3 journalists:** The Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) has condemned the decision of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Monday, to keep three senior journalists in jail in connection with a "crimes against humanity" case linked to the July 2024 uprising. The journalists are Shyamal Dutta, former editor of Bhorer Kagoj and CJA vice president; Mozammel Haq Babu, managing director and editor-in-chief of Ekattor TV; and Farzana Rupa, chief correspondent of Ekattor TV. **In a statement, the CJA said it was alarmed by the basis of the allegations, which reportedly stem from a press conference held by then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban on 14 July 2024, where journalists allegedly made "provocative remarks" while asking questions. The association stressed that questioning political leaders is a fundamental journalistic duty and cannot constitute crimes against humanity.** It warned that prosecuting journalists through an International Crimes Tribunal sets a disturbing precedent for press freedom. Journalists must face accountability only for genuine criminal acts backed by credible evidence, not for reporting or perceived political leanings (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [25 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Editors suggest opposition to engage in constructive criticism, avoid violence:** Editors of various newspapers have advised the opposition to engage in constructive criticism of the government and refrain from violence on the streets. Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar disclosed this after a meeting with newspaper editors. The editors held the meeting with Shafiqur Rahman, leader of the opposition in parliament and amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, at his official residence on Minto Road in the capital on Monday afternoon. **Speaking to journalists**

after the meeting, Jamaat Secretary General Golam Parwar said, “The editors give us suggestions that we oppose [the government]. Criticise it constructively and, when necessary, take to the streets with the people’s demands. But do not destabilise the country by taking an intolerant, destabilising or violent path like previous opposition parties. Some editors sought the cooperation of our amir in this regard”. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami would play a ‘responsible and constructive’ role as the opposition in the Parliament while continuing to oppose actions that go against public interest, Jamaat secretary general Mia Golam Parwar said on Monday. He said that Jamaat had briefed the editors on its parliamentary role and its policy of supporting the government on issues that serve national stability, democracy and public interest while protesting against wrongdoing. According to Golam Parwar, the editors appreciated Jamaat’s approach, saying it was unusual to see an opposition party seeking to keep the country stable while cooperating with the government where necessary (*Prothom Alo*, [24 August 2026](#); *New Age*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Law minister says reforms must proceed within 1972 Constitution, questions July Charter order:** Bangladesh must pursue constitutional reforms while keeping the original Constitution of 1972 as the foundation, Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman has said. Part A of Article 6 of the July Charter repeatedly says these measures have to be carried out through constitutional amendments, he explained. **“That means I have accepted the 1972 Constitution as the basis. Whatever I do, I have to move forward with the 1972 Constitution before me. That is one part of my July Charter.”** Asaduzzaman was speaking as chief guest at a dialogue titled “Post-election Bangladesh: Political Promises and Reality” at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka on Monday. The law minister said those who had argued for discarding the 1972 Constitution altogether would have offered a simpler route. **“If we had done what those who said the 1972 Constitution should be thrown away wanted, I could have gone down a straight line,”** he said. **“But as long as the 1972 Constitution remains, I have to amend that Constitution. In going through the amendment process, I have to keep before me the points of the July Charter that we signed for reform.”** Asaduzzaman also questioned the “July Charter Implementation Order” issued during the interim administration, saying it was inconsistent with the Constitution. Explaining why an “order” had been issued rather than an ordinance, he said: “If this amounts to something equivalent to amending the Constitution, then it conflicts with the Constitution. “An ordinance cannot be issued if it is equivalent to a constitutional amendment. That is why they did not go for an ordinance and instead issued an order.” He then questioned the legal status of that order (*bdnews24.com*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **‘Tawhidi Janata’ demands cancellation of Urs in Savar:** ‘Tawhidi Janata’ comprising local leaders of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Hefazat-e-Islam, Jamiat and other religious organisations has demanded that an Urs Sharif scheduled for August 26-27 at the residence of Kazi Jaber Al Jahangir in Savar be stopped. Ten people signed the memorandum, including three Hefazat leaders, two BNP leaders, a Jubo Dal leader, a Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan leader, a Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam leader, a Jamaat activist and a local religious leader. **They demanded cancellation of the Urs and withdrawal of cases filed against members of “Tawhidi Janata,” while urging the administration to intervene to prevent any untoward incident.** Jaber denied the allegations, describing them as false propaganda. He said an Urs has been held at his home for nearly 19 years in memory of his late father. This year’s event will also be held within the family compound, without any external stage or loudspeakers, he said. **Leaders of the group said their objection was not to the Urs itself but to what they described as “un-Islamic activities” allegedly associated with Jaber.** Savar UNO Md Saiful Islam said those who submitted the complaint had

been advised to remain calm and that the matter would be discussed with police. They submitted a memorandum to the Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and police on Sunday, alleging that Jaber has made controversial statements about Allah, the Prophet, prayer, fasting, heaven, hell and the Day of Judgment (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **NCP slams govt over obstruction of peaceful political gathering:** National Citizen Party (NCP) has strongly condemned and protested against the denial of permission for State Reform Movement's pre-scheduled peaceful political gathering at Central Shaheed Minar. **The party characterised the incident as a blatant attack on independent political practice and constitutionally recognised freedom of assembly – expressing deep concern and strong protest over deplorable acts.** In a joint statement, the party's convenor and member secretary said in the "new Bangladesh" achieved through the July mass uprising, there is absolutely no scope to snatch away the democratic rights of any political party. They, however, expressed great regret that the elected government is continuing old practice of obstructing opposition or dissenting political programmes, echoing actions of the past defeated autocratic and fascist regimes (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP to field candidates in 5,000 unions by November:** The National Citizen Party (NCP) will announce candidates in 5,000 Union Parishads across the country by next November, the party's Chief Organiser of northern region Sarjis Alam said on Monday. Additionally, mayoral candidates for the remaining eight city corporations will be finalised by next September, he added. Addressing a press conference at a port city hotel, following the party's Chattogram metropolitan, north, and south district units' organisational coordination meeting, Alam said that mayoral candidates have already been announced in five of the country's 13 city corporations. The remaining eight will be announced by next month. **Alam emphasised that the NCP's presence as a ruling party is critical to serving the people in the "New Bangladesh."** To achieve this, the party is actively working to strengthen its organisation at the grassroots level. He also alleged that Bangladeshi expatriates and remittance warriors are being harassed in various ways and are not being given their due respect (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CEC says Local polls will be better than national election:** Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin today said the upcoming local government elections would be held to a standard at least as high as that of the last national election. **"We will do better than the national election we conducted. It will not be worse,"** he told reporters after a dialogue with Election Commission officials at the Election Training Institute in Agargaon, Dhaka. Nasir said the commission had learned lessons from previous elections and was committed to conducting the local polls properly. **He acknowledged that violence has historically been more intense during local elections and said law enforcement agencies would have a greater role in controlling it. "We will make every effort to control it,"** he said, adding that police, BGB and other agencies would be mobilised accordingly. On the election schedule, the CEC said no date had been finalised yet as preparations depended on several factors, including possible legal amendments, Durga Puja, the monsoon and annual examinations. He said the government would be consulted, but the Election Commission would decide the dates (*The Daily Star*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **EC says no army deployment planned for local government elections:** The Election Commission (EC) today said it has no plans to deploy armed forces in the upcoming local government elections, as it stepped up preparations for the five-tier polls. **The commission has met the heads of three law enforcement agencies within the past week and instructed them to**

begin preparations for the elections, including the union parishad, municipality, upazila, city corporation and zila parishad polls. After meeting Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the EC headquarters in Agargaon today, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud told The Daily Star that the **army would not be deployed**. Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said, “For now, we are not planning it” (*The Daily Star*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Dipen loyalists sidelined in Rangamati:** Dipen Dewan’s loyalists have been sidelined in the Rangamati Hill District Council after he resigned as minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. **Last Thursday afternoon, the ministry announced the names of 15 members of the council, including Rangamati BNP President Dipon Talukdar as chairman. None of Dipen’s loyalists were included in the new council, prompting the former minister to express disappointment.** Manish Dewan, central BNP executive committee assistant secretary for tribal affairs, also voiced his anger over the development. He posted a strong reaction on Facebook after the new council was announced. Thirty-seven years have passed since 1989, but the Rangamati Hill District Council has not held an election. Intumoni Talukdar, general secretary of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum’s hill region chapter, alleged that corruption and irregularities were increasing in the hills due to the absence of elected representatives (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [25 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP set for broader reshuffle after six-month government review:** The BNP is preparing for a broader reshuffle in both the government and its party organization following a review of the government’s performance during its first six months in office, with further cabinet changes and party reorganization expected in the coming weeks. The first major cabinet reshuffle was carried out last Friday after BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was sworn in as president. However, party and government sources said the changes are not being viewed as a final restructuring. **Further changes could be introduced in phases based on the six-month assessment, efforts to accelerate administrative activities, improve political coordination and maintain a balance between the party and government. Discussions are already underway to induct more ministers and state ministers and redistribute portfolios among several ministries.** At the same time, the BNP is preparing to reorganize its committees from the grassroots to the central level, fill long-vacant posts and restructure committees of its affiliated and associate organizations (*Dhaka Tribune*, [25 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Debapriya Bhattacharya sees more anxiety than progress after six months of BNP government:** Economist Debapriya Bhattacharya has said he sees more “anxiety and concern” than progress after six months of the BNP government, which has returned to power after 19 years in the election in February. Assessing business and trade, power and energy, and various economic indicators, **Debapriya said there was little reason for either excitement or optimism. “We are not saying there has been no improvement or that there is no stability anywhere. But we are not seeing the degree of dynamism and progress that is needed,” he said.** Speaking at a dialogue at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) office in Dhaka on Monday, **the CPD distinguished fellow presented a review of 31 economic indicators for the government's first six months. Of these, 19 had deteriorated while only 12 had improved, according to the review.** Even the indicators showing improvement offered little cause for optimism, he said. Higher foreign exchange reserves and capital machinery imports, for instance, needed to be viewed in context. Although capital

goods imports and letters of credit showed some improvement, he said foreign borrowing, prospects for future capital goods imports, and private-sector credit had all deteriorated significantly. He described the manufacturing sector as being in an “alarming” state, noting that private-sector credit growth had fallen to an all-time low of 4.5 percent (*bdnews24.com*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Malaysia Labour Market: 25 agencies, fresh fears of syndication:** Malaysia’s decision to reopen its labour market to Bangladeshi workers through a list of just 25 recruiting agencies has triggered concerns that the controversial syndication system could return, driving up migration costs and exposing workers to exploitation. Malaysia’s Foreign Workers Centralized Management System (FWCMS) on Friday published the list of 25 Bangladeshi agencies approved to recruit and send workers to the Southeast Asian country, without disclosing the criteria used to select them. The decision has revived concerns over a system used in previous recruitment drives, when Malaysia entrusted a limited number of Bangladeshi agencies with worker recruitment and deployment. The arrangement was later blamed for creating syndicates and monopolistic practices, amid allegations of corruption that eventually led Malaysia to close its labour market. **The Trade Union–Civil Society Action Alliance (TUCSAA) has voiced serious concerns regarding the recent finalisation of a list of 25 recruiting agencies for sending Bangladeshi workers to Malaysia, warning that it could pave the way for a new syndicate.** In a press release issued on Monday, the alliance acknowledged that reopening the Malaysian labor market presents significant employment prospects for Bangladeshis. However, it cautioned that the selection basis for these 25 agencies, their exact mandate, and the mechanism for distributing job demands remain entirely opaque. According to TUCSAA, following the Prime Minister’s visit to Malaysia in June, Bangladesh submitted a pool of 423 agencies meeting eight mandatory conditions. The subsequent emergence of a 25-agency shortlist has triggered legitimate questions over how they were chosen and whether other qualified agencies will be sidelined. Highlighting the bitter lessons of past recruitment cycles, the alliance stressed that high migration costs, irregularities, heavy reliance on intermediaries and the concentration of power among a handful of agencies previously exposed migrant workers to severe exploitation (*Daily Sun*, [24 August 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Culture, tourism ministries to sign MoU for unified policy:** The government has taken an initiative to formulate a unified policy for developing the tourism sector by linking Bangladesh’s cultural heritage with tourism. **As part of the initiative, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs have taken a preliminary decision to sign a memorandum of understanding and form a joint committee.** Civil aviation and tourism minister Rashiduzzaman Millat disclosed the decision at a meeting held at the conference room of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs at the Secretariat on Monday. **He said the MoU would be binding and would facilitate the formation of a joint committee between the two ministries to undertake the process of formulating a unified policy for cultural tourism.** ‘We want to start working after signing the MoU. Through the presentation we want to confirm that a committee comprising representatives of the tourism and culture ministries is formed,’ the minister said. He said, ‘At present, we can contribute 2 to 3 per cent to GDP from the tourism sector. With the involvement of the two ministries, I believe we can fulfill the prime minister’s expectation of increasing our GDP contribution to 7 to 8 per cent. That is why we have taken this decision today,’ he said (*New Age*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US Ambassador meets Moyeen Khan, discusses cooperation in local govt, development sectors:** US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T Christensen today met Local Government, Rural

Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, with both sides discussing ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in local government and development sectors. **The ambassador called on the minister at his office here, where they discussed mutual partnership between Bangladesh and the United States and explored various areas of cooperation.** State Minister Mir Shahe Alam was present at the meeting, according to a handout. During the meeting, the LGRD minister expressed Bangladesh's interest in utilising US expertise and technical knowledge in several areas, including water management development, waste management, renewable energy, agriculture and cold storage (*BSS News*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Milon expresses gratitude for Chinese cooperation in education, other sectors:** A delegation led by Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen today paid a courtesy call on Education Minister Dr ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon at his office at Bangladesh Secretariat here. During the meeting, the Chinese delegation highly praised various initiatives taken by Bangladesh government in the education sector and other areas. **The minister expressed his sincere gratitude to China for its continued cooperation with Bangladesh in education and other sectors.** The minister said Bangladesh could advance to a higher level of development if its population could be transformed into human resources. **To this end, he said, the government is emphasizing on technical and vocational education and training.** He said there are scopes to further expand joint cooperation with China in education and technical sectors aimed at developing the country's present generation into skilled and globally competitive human resources. The meeting expressed hope that Bangladesh and China would work more closely in the future to improve the quality of education and develop skilled human resources (*BSS News*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Faqir urges private sector to drive innovation towards trillion-dollar economy:** Science and Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam today called for stronger private-sector participation and public-private cooperation to transform Bangladesh into a trillion-dollar, knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy by 2034. He made the call at a networking meeting titled "Developing Innovation Ecosystem Towards a Trillion-Dollar Economy" organised ahead of the "Bangladesh Innovation Fair 2026", scheduled to be held at Novo Theatre here from September 12 to 14, said a ministry press release. Faqir, also Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister, said the country's economy is undergoing an important transition and increasing the volume of traditional products and services alone would not be enough to maintain Bangladesh's competitiveness in global markets without high value-adding industries and innovative technologies (*BSS News*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **\$1b IsDB boost for energy security:** Bangladesh is set to sign a more than US\$1 billion financing deal with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on 3 September to expand the state-owned Eastern Refinery – a move expected to nearly triple the country's crude-oil refining capacity, reduce dependence on imported finished petroleum products and strengthen energy security. The loan agreement for the long-delayed "Modernisation and Expansion of Eastern Refinery" project is expected to be signed at the Secretariat, with ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky saying Bangladesh and the IsDB had made significant progress in finalising the financing arrangement. "IsDB will provide \$1 billion for the ERL-2 project. We have made significant progress and hope to sign the loan agreement on 3 September," he said. The project, implemented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), is estimated to cost around Tk31,000 crore, with the government financing 60% and BPC providing the remaining 40% from its own resources. It is scheduled for completion by November 2030 (*Daily Sun*, [25 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **State minister dodges British citizenship question, asks ‘Who did the news, who is so bothered?’:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir did not answer whether he has renounced his British citizenship. Instead, he asked, “Who did the news about this, who is so bothered?” State Minister Humaiun Kobir made the remarks in response to questions from journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday. A journalist asked, “A matter has come up regarding your British citizenship... We need your statement on whether you have renounced it.” **Humaiun Kobir, who grew up in the United Kingdom from childhood, was involved in Labour Party politics there. Several leaders of the UK BNP have confirmed that he is a British citizen. However, they could not confirm whether he renounced his British citizenship before taking charge as state minister for foreign affairs. Sources in the Bangladesh government also say they have no information that Humaiun Kobir has sent a letter seeking to renounce his citizenship.** Regarding eligibility for becoming a member of parliament, Article 66(2)(c) of the Constitution states, “A person shall be disqualified for election as, or for being, a member of Parliament who acquires the citizenship of, or affirms or acknowledges allegiance to, a foreign state” (*Prothom Alo*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Humaiun Kobir says Mecca Defence Pact viewed positively:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Monday said Bangladesh views the “Mecca Defence Pact” involving Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye positively, noting that it would not be unusual for Bangladesh to participate in such an initiative among Islamic nations. “We have expressed interest in the Mecca Defence Pact. So, if something happens in the Middle East, like a security pact among Islamic nations, it isn't unusual to participate. Let's see. It's being viewed positively,” he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in response to a question. The newly appointed State Minister said Bangladesh is now a country of recognition, with stakeholders in the Middle East and around the world showing interest in engaging with Dhaka. “They are inviting the leadership of Bangladesh, particularly Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, to come and participate,” he said, adding that Mecca has always held a special place for Bangladesh and its people. The State Minister said Bangladesh’s foreign policy has entered a new phase, with the government focusing on strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations while enhancing the country’s global visibility and influence (*Daily Sun*, [24 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh to build global influence from strength:** Newly appointed State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir today said Bangladesh would pursue its bilateral and multilateral engagements from a “position of strength”, aiming to elevate the country’s global visibility and influence to new heights. “We will build our relations ... bilateral relations, multilateral relations ... from a position of strength,” he told journalists at the foreign ministry after completing his first day in office as state minister. Humaiun said the government would now move into the next phase of its diplomatic engagements by adding greater substance to Bangladesh’s relations with its international partners. “We will be now in the next phase putting the content around our bilateral relations and we will be hopefully taking this country’s visibility, influence of our country to great new heights,” he said. The state minister said Bangladesh’s diplomacy would seek to establish the country as a recognised source of soft and medium power and influence on the international stage. “We can take Bangladesh into a new horizon where Bangladesh is a country that is recognized for good soft, medium power and influence,” he said. The state minister also reaffirmed his commitment to safeguarding

Bangladesh's interests in conducting the country's foreign relations, saying his position on Bangladesh's interests should leave no room for doubt (*BSS News*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, India move to strengthen trade ties thru land ports, border haats:** Bangladesh and India have discussed reopening closed border haats, making land ports fully operational and withdrawing the existing restriction on yarn imports through land routes as part of efforts to further strengthen bilateral trade relations. The issues came up at a meeting between Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi at the Bangladesh Secretariat here on Monday. The meeting also discussed ways to expand bilateral trade and remove various barriers to business between the two countries. Talking to reporters after the meeting, the commerce minister said bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India currently stands at around US\$13 billion. However, some obstacles have emerged over the past one and a half years, causing a slowdown in trade activities. "We discussed how to identify these problems and make trade relations between the two countries easier and more effective in the future," he said. He said the meeting placed emphasis on making the land ports fully functional, reopening closed border haats and withdrawing the existing restriction on yarn imports through land routes. **A proposal was also made to form a joint task force to enhance cooperation between businesses of the two countries and to develop digital infrastructure, the minister said.** He said the initiatives are aimed at creating new investment opportunities, expanding business ties and accelerating bilateral trade. **Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Monday laid emphasis on strengthening business-to-business relations between the two countries, saying politics will continue on its own course.** "Let us have business-to-business together. Politics will continue in its own way, but it is our responsibility to deliver what people deserve. I have no doubt that the future is very positive. Let things take their own time, and let us work together for the people of both countries," he told reporters at Secretariat after a meeting with Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir. The high commissioner said Bangladesh is a vibrant, sovereign and independent country, just as India is. "Nobody is big and nobody is small. We are all equals, and we have to work on that footing," the Indian envoy said. Highlighting the importance of peace and prosperity, Trivedi said prosperity would follow if peace could be ensured. "I think it is the responsibility of both countries to ensure peace and prosperity for the young generation," he said (*BSS News*, [24 August 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Xi says China-Bangladesh ties withstood 'changing international circumstances':** In a congratulatory message to Bangladesh's new head of state Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Chinese President Xi Jinping has said Beijing and Dhaka have weathered shifting global currents. Xi sent the message on Monday, a day after Fakhrul took office as Bangladesh's 23rd president, according to a statement posted by the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka. "China-Bangladesh bilateral relationship has withstood the test of changing international circumstances," Xi wrote. He described China and Bangladesh as neighbours with a longstanding friendship, saying the two countries had respected and treated each other as equals over the 51 years since establishing diplomatic ties. They have also supported each other on issues involving their core interests and major concerns while pursuing their respective paths to modernisation hand in hand, he said. **Xi said he was ready to work with Fakhrul to "carry forward traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communications, enhance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and expand cooperation exchanges in all sectors".** The efforts, he said, would help deepen the "China-Bangladesh community with a shared future in the new era" and steadily deliver tangible benefits for both peoples (*bdnews24.com*, [24 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Hacker group claims 6m Bangladeshi CVs for sale on dark web:** A hacker group identifying itself as 'Madarx' has claimed to be selling the CVs of six million Bangladeshi job seekers on the dark web, saying that the data was obtained from the database of online job platform Bdjobs. The group made the claim in an advertisement posted on Sunday on a website called DarkForums.ru. **According to the advertisement, the claimed database contains job seekers' names, phone numbers, addresses, email addresses, educational qualifications, work experience and training records. However, Bdjobs chief executive officer Fahim Mashroor denied that any data had been leaked from the company's systems.** 'Registered employers on Bdjobs can access job seekers' information through their accounts, but such access is limited to recruitment purposes,' Mashroor told New Age. He said that if an individual or group had genuinely gained unauthorised access to the company's database, they would normally contact the affected organisation directly or attempt to blackmail it. No such communication has been made with Bdjobs,' he added. Mashroor said the claim could also be part of a scam intended to obtain financial benefits (*New Age*, [24 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Defence Minister says Repatriation only sustainable solution to Rohingya crisis:** Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (ret'd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam has said repatriation is the only sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis, stressing that the government is determined to address the issue with prudence and humanitarian considerations, alongside a security-conscious approach, under the 'Bangladesh First' policy. "The Rohingya crisis should not be viewed merely as a humanitarian issue, but as a growing challenge to human security, national security, diplomacy and regional stability," he said. The adviser was speaking at the closing ceremony of a seminar titled "Challenges of Rohingya Repatriation: International Politics and National Priorities", organised by the Centre for Genocide Studies under the Department of International Relations of Dhaka University on Monday. According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate here this evening, he said this responsibility, taken on without adequate planning, has become an increasing burden for Bangladesh over the past nine years." The Defence Adviser highlighted the deteriorating security situation among around 1.18 million Rohingyas living in 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char (*BSS News*, [24 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**]*