



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Press Information Department.
Dhaka.

Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG 39//2026-27
Date: Saturday, 08. 08. 2026

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Newsbrief

Acting President Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, stressed the need for properly documenting and presenting the true history of Bangladesh's Liberation War, saying many significant chapters of the war remain unknown to the people. The Acting President made the remarks while delivering the chief guest's speech at the celebration of the 54th Commissioning and Fellowship Day of the Bangladesh Liberation War Courses at Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. The Acting President urged the new generation to learn how Bangladesh achieved independence and what dreams the freedom fighters had and called upon young people to work to realise those dreams and build a happy, prosperous and democratic Bangladesh.

Leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organizations in greater Chattogram are eagerly anticipating to welcome Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman who is scheduled to arrive at the port city on August 9. During the daylong visit—the first to Chattogram after taking office on February 17—the PM is scheduled to travel from Matarbari in Maheshkhali of Cox's Bazar to Banshkhali upazila. Besides the local administration, BNP has made extensive arrangements to warmly welcome the Prime Minister who is expected to arrive in Maheshkhali at 9am to review the operations of the Matarbari Deep Sea Port, the Coal-fired Power Project, and the Maheshkhali Integrated Development Authority. After arriving at Maheshkhali, he will travel by helicopter to participate in a government-organized programme aimed at rehabilitating victims of the recent floods at Baharchhara beach in Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram at 12 noon. There, he will distribute relief supplies and hand over keys to new homes to 100 families who have been rendered homeless. Following this, the Prime Minister will proceed to Fatikchhari at 1pm.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, there is no alternative to an independent, responsible and strong media for establishing sustainable democracy. The Minister made the remarks at a seminar at a city hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, democracy is not merely an electoral system; rather, it is a culture. Therefore, tolerance, respect for differing opinions and democratic practices must be strengthened to establish sustainable democracy.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said, the government is moving forward with various plans to harness the potential of the Blue Economy. The Minister made the remark while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Cox's Bazar Development Authority Residential Flat Development Project-1 in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The Minister also said, the government is working to further enrich the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar and elevate it to international standards. The government has planned to establish a Marine University to expand opportunities for higher education and marine research centered on Cox's Bazar, added the Minister. Later, the Minister laid the foundation stone of the new building of the 500-bed Cox's Bazar Medical College Hospital.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman said, he want to believe that Sheikh Hasina returns in December and goes to jail taking responsibility for the genocide. The Minister made the remarks while speaking at a views-exchange meeting at the Shailkupa Upazila Parishad Auditorium in Jhenaidah yesterday. The Minister also said, we cannot say that she did not kill the people of Bangladesh, we cannot say that she was not involved in killings, enforced disappearances, and genocide. If she wants to face those truths, then she should certainly come.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon said, the government is working with journalists and media owners to protect the interests of the media. The Minister made the remarks at a seminar titled "Role of Media in Sustainable Democracy" organised by the Television Editors Council at a hotel in the capital yesterday. The Minister urged all concerned to consider the media not merely as a business institution, but as one of the most important pillars of the state and society saying journalism and the media industry are different from any other sector. The media should not be brought under control but rather within a regulatory framework, so that the fair rights of all stakeholders are ensured, added the Minister.

Meanwhile, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon said, the historic July Uprising has created an unprecedented opportunity to establish and institutionalize true democratic values and structures in the country. The Minister made the remarks while addressing a discussion titled "July Uprising and Bangladesh's Democratic Transition," organized by the Dhaka University Debating Society at the Teacher-Student Centre of the university yesterday. Reaffirming the government's commitment to building an effective parliamentary system, the Minister noted that a functional parliament is the main core for narrowing down non-democratic practices. The Minister expressed optimism that all pro-democracy allies would utilize the parliamentary platform rather than reverting to street-level misgivings.

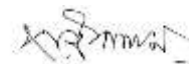
Education Minister Dr. ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon said, farmers will no longer have to sell their crops at low prices at the end of the harvesting season, as opportunities will be created for them to store their produce in cold storage and sell it at a convenient time according to market conditions. The Minister made the remarks at a ceremony at Sachar of Kachua upazila in Chandpur to distribute and inaugurate free hybrid solar-operated mini cold storage facilities under the agricultural rehabilitation assistance programme. Describing the initiative, implemented under a government pilot project, as a new horizon for agricultural development in Kachua, the Minister said, genuine farmers would be able to store potatoes, seeds, eggs and various other agricultural products in these cold storage facilities. We want to establish a socially developed and discrimination-free society, added the Minister.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam said, the government has begun working to promote country's tourism sector. The Minister made the remarks while speaking to the journalists yesterday after visiting Uttara Ganabhaban in Natore. The Minister also said, the planned tourism hubs would include not only the development of tourist attractions but also accommodation, healthcare and other facilities for visitors.

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salauddin Tuku said, newspapers act as the mirror of a country. Along with highlighting various shortcomings and anomalies in society, newspapers play an important role in guiding people on the right path and managing society beautifully and systematically. The State Minister said this while speaking at the inaugural and publication ceremony of the weekly newspaper "Samay Taranga" at the Tangail Press Club in Tangail yesterday. The State Minister also said, any unethical practices that exist in journalism must certainly be avoided. Regarding press freedom, he said, we will never obstruct the democratic process. We will not interfere in anyone's freedom. We will extend our fullest cooperation to journalists.

State Minister for Land and Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs, Barrister Mir Mohammad Helal Uddin, said, it is both inaccurate and misleading to portray the July-August 2024 mass uprising as the achievement of any single individual or group. The State Minister made the remarks while addressing a discussion at the July Memorial Hall of the Chattogram Press Club in Chattogram yesterday. The State Minister also said, the uprising was not intended to bring anyone to state power or government; rather, it was fought to establish Bangladesh as a truly independent and sovereign nation.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education, Bobby Hajjaj said, Bangladeshi youths will be prepared according to international standards through language education, technical skills and technological knowledge considering the demands of the international labour market, including Japan. The State Minister made the remarks at a views-exchange meeting with Bangladeshi students, professionals and community representatives living in Osaka and Kobe at a local community centre of Osaka in Japan yesterday. The State Minister also said, the government's goal is not only to send manpower abroad, but also to develop skilled, language-proficient and world-class human resources.



08.08.2026

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