



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

Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG 45//2026-27
Date: Friday, 14.08.2026

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Newsbrief

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman formally declared Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir as the President candidate from BNP at a meeting of the party's standing committee. When the Prime Minister proposed the name of Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir for nomination of the President candidate, the standing committee members unanimously approved the proposal at the meeting. The meeting was held in the meeting room of Cabinet Division at the Prime Minister's Office in Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman urged US companies to invest in Bangladesh with confidence and pursue long-term business opportunities, saying such investments would create jobs, expand trade as well as further deepen the economic ties between Bangladesh and the United States. The Prime Minister made the call while exchanging views with a 50-member delegation of the US-Bangladesh Business Council at his office at Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister also said, the government is working to strengthen protection of investors, simplify regulations, improve tax and VAT administration, facilitate profit repatriation, reduce bureaucratic complexities and digitise public services.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman pledged continued government support to promote mathematics education and expand Mathematics Olympiad activities across the country, with a particular focus on taking the initiative to the grassroots and school levels. The Prime Minister made the commitments when Bangladeshi medal winners of the International Mathematical Olympiad and European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad paid a courtesy call on him at his office at the Cabinet Division of the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister congratulated the students on their outstanding performances and wished them greater success in the future. The Premier said, agreeing to proposals to establish a fund for school-level Mathematics Olympiad programmes and introduce activity-oriented mathematics in schools.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to inaugurate National Fisheries Week-2026 on August 16 at the George Institute Mini Stadium in Achmita Union under Katiadi upazila of Kishoreganj district. With the theme 'A self-sufficient country in silver fish, Bangladesh first,' National Fisheries Week will be observed across the country from August 16 to 30. At the inaugural event, 14 individuals and organisations will be awarded the 'National Fisheries Medal (Gold Medal)' in 13 categories in recognition of their outstanding contributions to fisheries production, research, technological innovation, extension services, administrative efficiency and entrepreneurship development. Fisheries, Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid disclosed this at a press conference held at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in Dhaka yesterday to mark 'National Fisheries Week-2026'.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman extended financial assistance to meritorious student Mohammad Nazmul Hasan to help him overcome the initial financial hurdles to pursuing higher studies in Sweden on a full scholarship. Nazmul, a master's student of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Rajshahi University, met the Prime Minister at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday and received the grant provided on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman held a meeting with the party leaders from different districts and metropolitan units of Rajshahi division, discussing organisational matters. The meeting was held at the BNP Chairman's office in Gulshan yesterday.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Jatiotabadi Sramik Dal founding Joint Secretary Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury. The Prime Minister in a condolence message prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his deep sympathy to the bereaved family. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, aged 73, died at the capital's hospital early Wednesday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Home Ministry has called for stronger and coordinated efforts to eliminate drugs and gambling, identifying them as two of the major challenges facing the country. At its first meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday, the committee urged the ministry and its agencies to intensify efforts to improve law and order, ensure public safety, eliminate drugs and combat crime. The committee also reviewed measures taken to ensure transparency in police recruitment over the past six months and examined the ministry's budget allocation and expenditure plans for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir resigned from his position in the party. Mirza Fakhru handed over his resignation to Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman at a party's standing committee meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said, that the country's ongoing energy crisis is expected to ease soon following the repair of a Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) and the arrival of LNG cargoes. The Minister made the remarks at a discussion titled 'Navigating Bangladesh's Energy Crisis: Immediate Priorities and the Path to a Sustainable Energy Future' organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in the city yesterday. The Minister also said, a 72-hour total shutdown would be required for boiler maintenance after completion of the second phase of repairs, which could temporarily worsen the gas crisis.

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) and Ambassador Dr. Irene Zubaida Khan yesterday paid a courtesy call on Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan at the minister's office in the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday, according to an official handout. During the meeting, emphasis was laid on projecting Bangladesh's positive image abroad and appropriately presenting

Bangladesh's position and achievements in the international arena. Irene Khan sought the cooperation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in projecting Bangladesh's positive image abroad while the Minister assured her of necessary cooperation in this regard. At that time, the Minister highlighted the activities undertaken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in this regard. The Minister emphasised the need for the government, media and all concerned parties to work in a coordinated manner to effectively counter disinformation and misleading information.

Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Bridges and Railways Shaikh Rabiul Alam said, the foundation stone of the Laldia Container Terminal at Chattogram Port will be laid on August 30. The terminal will be developed as a modern and environment friendly 'green terminal' with the cooperation from Denmark. The Minister said this during a meeting with a delegation from Danish-based APM Terminals at the Shipping Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, the latest technologies would be used at the Laldia Container Terminal. The terminal's cranes would be operated remotely from offices, which would enhance operational efficiency and safety.

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Nurul Islam Moni said, the Constitution will be amended and the July Charter will be implemented taking into consideration the views of all stakeholders. The Chief Whip made the remarks after submitting BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's nomination paper for Presidential Election to Chief Election Commissioner A M M Nasir Uddin at the Election Commission Bhaban, Agargaon in Dhaka yesterday. The Chief Whip also said, the BNP had invited everyone to participate in the amendment process and expressed hope that all would sit together to complete the task.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M. Rashiduzzaman Millat said, the government is formulating the 'National Tourism Policy 2026' to ensure realistic and effective development of tourism destinations across the country. The State Minister said this while addressing a seminar at Tourism Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon area yesterday. The State Minister also said, the government has already taken steps to transform Bangladesh into a tourism hub and is working to implement its electoral commitments regarding the sector. However, the State Minister stressed that private-sector stakeholders must come forward to accelerate the industry's growth.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's proposed visits to India and Japan have not yet been finalised, as their timing would depend on his schedule and progress in bilateral discussions. The Minister said this to the reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka yesterday. The State Minister also said, the Prime Minister remains occupied with important domestic engagements, including upcoming constitutional activities.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque has called for extensive tree plantation to tackle the country's growing natural disasters and to maintain ecological balance and greenery. The State Minister made the call while speaking at a tree plantation programme held at the Shaheed Zia Mohila College premises in Pallabi in the capital yesterday. The State Minister urged students, teachers and guardians of the college to plant more trees from their respective positions.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Yeaser Khan Choudhury said, anyone can criticize the government and has the right to speak against it, but narratives against the state will be dealt firmly. The State Minister made the remarks while speaking at a discussion on ways to prevent the spread of misinformation on social media at the Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner's conference room in Mymensingh yesterday. The State Minister also said, the government is working on amendments to the Cyber Security Act and a high-level committee has been formed for this purpose.

Election Commission (EC) Secretariat Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said, two candidates have submitted nomination papers for the presidential election and their validity to be announced after scrutiny on August 16. The EC disclosed the information at a briefing at the Election Commission Building in Agargaon in the capital yesterday. Earlier, the nomination paper of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was submitted on behalf of the BNP to Chief Election Commissioner A M M Nasir Uddin for the presidential election. On the other hand, a nomination paper was submitted on behalf of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Chairman Colonel (retd) Oli Ahmed by the 11-party alliance.

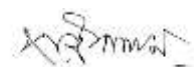
The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, commemorating the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), will be observed across the country on August 26 with due religious solemnity. The decision came from a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held yesterday at the Islamic Foundation (IF) Conference Room in Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka yesterday, according to an IF press release. The day is a public holiday in Bangladesh.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President for South, Central, and West Asia Yingming Yang yesterday concluded a five-day visit to Bangladesh, advancing senior-level consultations on ADB's next Country Partnership Strategy (CPS), sustaining policy dialogue on key reform and investment priorities, and supporting the operationalization of the Integrated Growth Network Development (IGND) initiative.

Bangladesh and Laos agreed to deepen bilateral trade and economic ties and initiate cooperation on labour recruitment as the two countries held their first-ever Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Vientiane yesterday. The consultations were co-chaired by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Ambassador Asad Alam Siam and Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Anouparb Vongnorkeo, according to a Foreign Ministry press release issued in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh and the Lao People's Democratic Republic agreed to initiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on labour cooperation aimed at facilitating recruitment of more Bangladeshi workers in Laos.

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has taken special security measures across the country to maintain law and order, ensure public safety and prevent any kind of sabotage and violence ahead of August 15, according to a RAB press release issued yesterday. RAB urged the public to remain alert and promptly inform the nearest law enforcement agency if they notice any suspicious person, object or activity.

The government will import five more cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) having 16 million MMBtu to meet the growing energy demand in August. Director of Petrobangla AKM Mizanur Rahman said this to BSS in Dhaka yesterday. He said the LNG cargoes will be brought from spot market, long-term and short-term contracts. The Petrobangla has taken preparation for brining nine cargoes contain around 28.8 million MMBtu LNG in August, while four of them arrived and remaining five are scheduled to arrive later this month.



14. 08. 2026

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