

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

02 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Info Minister says Cybersecurity more important than 'Sindhuk':** Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan on Wednesday said cybersecurity is more important than a "Sindhuk," a traditional Bengali strongbox. "The traditional concept of security has changed qualitatively in the modern era. Now, keeping a big business firm's computer free from hackers is more important than guarding its "Sindhuk," and ensuring cybersecurity is more important than guarding a 1000-mile frontier," he said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Efforts on to bring Hasina back to face trial; people want her extradition:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Wednesday said the people of Bangladesh want former prime minister Sheikh Hasina extradited, and efforts are underway to bring her back to the country to face trial. **The state minister, however, said there is no new update, as the process is still underway** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Nat'l minorities demand constitutional recognition:** Members of the Santal and other national minority communities on Tuesday renewed their demand for constitutional recognition as indigenous peoples, protection of their ancestral land and the formation of a separate land commission for plainland national minority communities. The call was made simultaneously from several programmes marking the 171st Hul Diwas (Rebellion Day) at different places in Rajshahi, commemorating the 1855 Santal Rebellion against the British colonial rule and the oppression of the Zamindari system (*New Age*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ensure justice for July massacre: NCP to govt:** National Citizen Party convener and opposition chief whip in the Jatiya Sangsad Md Nahid Islam on Wednesday demanded that the government prove its commitment to the July Mass Uprising by implementing promised state reforms and delivering justice for the July massacre victims. **Observing the second anniversary of the uprising as the July Day, Nahid, a key student leader behind the July protests, also demanded that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government bring back deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others convicted of orchestrating the July 2024 massacre to Bangladesh so that the sentences handed down against them could be executed** (*New Age*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Opposition to push constitutional reform campaign:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami amir Shafiqur Rahman, also opposition leader in the Jatiya Sangsad, on Wednesday said that his party would continue its campaign to implement the public mandate for constitutional reform, arguing that the government had failed to honour the outcome of the referendum held alongside the JS polls. Speaking at a press conference at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad in the capital, he said that if parliament did not provide an opportunity to pursue the reform agenda, the opposition would take the issue directly to

the people. He claimed that about 68.6 per cent of voters had endorsed constitutional reform in the referendum, but the government had ignored the mandate, creating a fresh political crisis. Criticising the government's move to establish a constitution amendment committee, Shafiqur said that the public had voted for constitutional reform rather than amendment (*New Age*, [02 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Jamaat for Jan-Dec fiscal year:** The opposition will bring a Private Member's Bill to shift the fiscal year to January–December from July-June, said Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman. "In our country, there is a monster -- the monster of development. It sleeps for nine months with its ledger closed, then wakes up in the last three months and rushes forward at storm speed," he said during a post-budget exchange of views with journalists at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad. In nine months, 42 percent of the work is done; in the last three months, 50 percent. "At that time, rain and storms wash away the people's money -- into waste, looting and digestion." Jamaat is in favour of aligning the fiscal year with the weather, from January 1 to December 31, said Shafiqur, who is also the opposition leader in parliament. **"This change should be made in the national interest -- even many ruling party members want it. Adjustment will take some time, but I think the government may eventually consider it"** (*The Daily Star*, [02 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Cabinet committee formed to finalise Cyber Security Act amendment draft:** The government has formed a five-member cabinet committee to review and finalise the draft of the Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026. Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Fakir Mahbub Anam have been appointed as its convener. **According to a press release issued by the Press Information Department (PID) today, the committee will review the draft law and submit the necessary recommendations before its finalisation.** The other members of the committee are Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan, and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman (*The Daily Star*, [02 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Global aviation giants eye Bangladesh's airport transformation:** Bangladesh's aviation sector has reached a significant milestone as five of the world's leading airport service providers compete to operate at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's (HSIA) Third Terminal, reflecting growing global confidence in the country's ambition to emerge as a regional aviation hub. **For the first time since Bangladesh's independence, internationally renowned airport service companies are seeking entry into the country's ground handling market following the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh's (CAAB) decision to appoint a second passenger ground handling operator at the Third Terminal.** A senior CAAB official involved in the negotiations confirmed to BSS here recently that a second operator would be appointed for passenger-related ground services, while cargo handling at the new terminal would remain exclusively under Biman Bangladesh Airlines. **Over recent months, ambassadors from the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates have separately discussed their respective companies' interests with Bangladesh's aviation leadership.** The Third Terminal represents a major policy shift as it introduces competition in passenger ground

handling after decades of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' exclusive responsibility (*BSS News*, [01 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Cabinet clears procurement of 2 LNG cargoes:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) on Wednesday approved the procurement of two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from the spot market at a total cost of Tk1,437.55 crore to help meet the country's energy demand. The approval came at a meeting of the CCGP chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury. The proposal was placed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division under Rule 105(3)(a) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2025, through the international quotation method. **Under the proposal, one LNG cargo will be procured from BP Singapore Pte Ltd, while another from TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd, UK** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt to import 11 LNG cargoes in July:** As part of the government's efforts to meet the country's gas demand, 11 cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) are expected to be imported in July. "The government has confirmed 11 LNG cargoes for July to keep the gas supply system stable," Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources Corporation (Petrobangla) Director Engineer Md Rafiqul Islam told BSS. **He said the LNG would be imported under spot market, long-term and short-term agreements, adding that each cargo contains, on average, around 3.2 million British thermal units (MMBtu) of LNG.** In June, the government imported a total of nine LNG cargoes through long-term and short-term contracts and the spot market, amounting to around 28.8 million MMBtu (*BSS News*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CCGP approves import of 75,000 tonnes of MOP fertilizer:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) approved two separate proposals for the import of 75,000 tonnes of muriate of potash (MOP) fertilizer from Russia and Canada at a total estimated cost of Tk 351.26 crore to ensure an uninterrupted supply of the key agricultural input. The approvals came at the 29th meeting of the CCGP for 2026 held at the Cabinet Division in the capital with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair. The fertilizer will be procured by the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) under government-to-government arrangements to meet the country's growing demand. Under a proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture, the committee approved the import of 35,000 tonnes (± 10 percent) of MOP fertilizer from Russia's JSC Foreign Economic Corporation (Prodintorg). The fertilizer will be purchased at a unit price of US\$380 per metric tonne, involving an estimated expenditure of Tk 163.92 crore (*BSS News*, [01 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Dhaka always enjoys good ties with Tehran:** Bangladesh Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad is scheduled to join the state funeral of late Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said on Wednesday. Talking to reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shama Obaed said the speaker would join the event at the invitation of the Iranian government. **"Bangladesh's bilateral relationship with Iran has always been good. We have very strong people-to-people relations. We have energy cooperation with Iran,"** she said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Morocco eye textile, pharma, maritime joint ventures:** Morocco today proposed establishing joint ventures with Bangladesh in the textile, pharmaceutical and

maritime sectors as both countries pledged to deepen bilateral cooperation through expanded trade, investment and high-level engagements. Moroccan Ambassador to Bangladesh Lalla Bouthaina El Kerdoudi El Koulali made the proposal when she paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today, according to a foreign ministry press release. **During the meeting, the Ambassador said Morocco's strategic geographical location provides a gateway to African and European markets and offered joint ventures between the two countries in the textile, pharmaceutical and maritime sectors. She also expressed Morocco's commitment to broadening cooperation across all sectors, including the recruitment of skilled and semi-skilled Bangladeshi manpower.** The meeting reaffirmed the longstanding friendship and growing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Morocco. Welcoming the newly-appointed Ambassador, the State Minister expressed Bangladesh's readiness to extend full cooperation to further strengthen the existing ties between the two countries. The two sides discussed ways to enhance collaboration in trade, investment, pharmaceuticals, textiles, jute and jute goods, maritime affairs, shipbuilding and manpower sectors ([BSS News](#), 01 July 2026).

- ◆ **Shama Obaed says Bangladesh enjoys 'unique' relations with other countries:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has described Bangladesh's diplomatic relationship with every other country as "unique". **Addressing reporters at the foreign ministry on Wednesday, Shama said they aim to protect the country's interest through good relations with other nations. She was responding to a question about the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson's recent comments on India's "concerns" over the Teesta River barrage project. "Bangladesh's statement is that our relations with all countries are 'unique'. There will be relations with China; there will be relations with all countries," said Shama. "And I don't think that if our relation with one country is good, it does not mean our ties with another nation will be bad."** The state minister said, "Our goal is to achieve our country's interests by maintaining good relations with all countries. That is our goal" ([bdnews24.com](#), [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Japan 'signals support' for raising Bangladesh's energy aid package to \$500 million:** Japan has "responded positively" to Bangladesh's request to increase its energy sector assistance from \$312 million to \$500 million. On Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the assurance came during talks between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). **The two sides reviewed progress on JICA-funded projects in Bangladesh, including the Matarbari Deep Sea Port, MRT lines, and the third terminal of Shahjalal International Airport.** They also reaffirmed their commitment to expediting the implementation of the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, which was signed earlier ([bdnews24.com](#), [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh sends 1,100kg of mangoes to West Bengal, Tripura as goodwill gesture:** The Bangladesh government has sent 1,100kg of mangoes to the Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura as a goodwill gesture, with the fruits set to be distributed among senior government officials, diplomats, and other dignitaries. **The consignments crossed into India on Tuesday through the Benapole Land Port in Jessore and the Akhaura Land Port in Brahmanbaria.** The shipments were handed over to representatives of the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata and the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala. **The report also states that 100kg has been earmarked for Suwendu Adhikari. However, it should**

be noted that Suwendu Adhikari is the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, not the state's chief minister (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **311 extremists remain fugitives:** At least 311 members of various banned organisations are currently fugitives. They are accused in cases related to extremist activities. In addition, on 5 August 2024, the day of the mass uprising, nine convicts serving sentences in extremist-related cases escaped from Kashimpur High Security Central Prison in Gazipur. Security agencies remain concerned about the whereabouts and activities of these absconding extremists. The figures come from data updated through April by the Police's specialised Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU). **According to the information, the fugitives include 185 members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), 83 members of Ansar Al Islam, 16 members of Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B), 16 members of Neo-JMB, nine members of Allahar Dal, one member of Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya, and one member of Imam Mahmuder Kafela.** Separately, the ATU data show that **59 members of the banned organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir are also absconding in connection with various cases.** Security analysts believe that escaped prisoners, individuals who secured bail and went into hiding, and other fugitive extremists wanted in criminal cases all pose potential security risks. Most of the firearms looted from police facilities and prisons during the July 2024 mass uprising have yet to be recovered. Given this situation, they say close surveillance of fugitive extremists is essential, as they could attempt to reorganise if given the opportunity (*Prothom Alo*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama reiterates zero tolerance against terrorism:** Sate Minister for foreign affairs Shama Obaed Islam renewed Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and violent extremism as the government and foreign diplomats commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Holey Artisan Bakery attack, vowing to uphold peace, tolerance and humanity. Honouring the memory of the victims of the July 1, 2016 terrorist attack, Shama said terrorism can never be justified on political, religious, ideological or any other grounds. **"Our government remains steadfast in its determination to confront terrorism and violent extremism at all spheres,"** she said, adding that such forces have no place in Bangladesh and will never be allowed to undermine the country's peace and stability. The state minister reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and violent extremism with zero tolerance in all its forms and manifestations. The government of Bangladesh, together with diplomats from India, Japan, Italy and the United States, paid tribute to the victims of the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in Gulshan, where 24 people, including nine Italian nationals, were killed. They recalled the government's sustained efforts to combat terrorism and highlighted Bangladesh's achievements in countering violent extremism over the past decade (*BSS News*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB seizes smuggled goods worth Tk 14.13 crore:** The members of the Border Guard Bangladesh seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 14.13 crore in separate drives in border areas of Brahmanbaria and Cumilla on Wednesday. According to a BGB press release, Sultanpur Battalion members carried out the operations in several border areas under Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria district and Brahmanpara upazila of Cumilla district. **During the operations, BGB recovered a large quantity of Indian smuggled goods, including basmati**

rice, sarees, premium soap, cattle, chocolates, chilli seeds, Neurobion Forte tablets, shrimp fry and cannabis worth Tk over 1.41 crore. The recovered goods will be handed over to the concerned customs authorities, while narcotics and other seized items will be dealt with in accordance with the existing laws (*New Age*, [01 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Another 'bomb-like object', paper note, recovered in Meherpur:** Another object that resembles an improvised bomb and a threatening note have allegedly been found in Meherpur's Gangni Upazila of Meherpur. Unidentified individuals left the bomb-like object and the note at the gate of the home of a schoolteacher in Kasba village. Investigating Officer Abdullah Al Mamun said the perpetrators left a "hand bomb" wrapped in red adhesive tape and a handwritten note beneath the staircase of the house of schoolteacher Akkas Ali near Mollapara. The items have since been recovered. **The handwritten note threatens to kill the schoolteacher if demands are not met over a construction dispute, stating that "our party is now in power".** Over the past several months, nearly 20 bombs or bomb-like objects accompanied by threatening notes have been recovered from eight different locations across Gangni Upazila (*bdnews24.com*, [01 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Teknaf residents report shelling near Myanmar border:** The sound of heavy shelling from Myanmar's Rakhine State has rocked the Teknaf frontier, sending waves of fear through nearby Bangladeshi villages. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), however, urged residents not to panic, saying there was no cause for alarm despite the loud explosions. **Residents suspected the explosions stemmed from fierce fighting between Myanmar's military and the Arakan Army across the border.** "The BGB is on alert along the Teknaf border. Patrols have been strengthened on the Teknaf border" (*bdnews24.com*, [02 July 2026](#)).

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