

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

03 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Over 50 AL men sued in Khulna over 'anti-state activities':** A case has been filed in Khulna against 15 named and around 35 to 40 unnamed leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies on charges of conspiring against the government and carrying out anti-state activities. Sub-Inspector Tapan Kumar Pal of Sadar Police Station lodged the case on Thursday night, said Inspector (Investigation) Md Mizanur Rahman. Among the named accused are Khulna district Jubo League office secretary Asaduzzaman Khan Riaz and Khulna city unit joint general secretary of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Tayeful Islam Taj. Others named in the case include Ranbir Baroi Sajal, Anup Sarkar, Mridul, Prosenjit, Md Shahidul Islam, Rahat Ali Morol, Anik Hasan Parvez, Gautam Sarkar Kakon, Asafur Dhali, Gopal Chandra Saha, Md Akhter Sikder, Monirul Islam Moni and Md Rafiqul Islam Pintu. They are accused of throwing bricks and vandalising vehicles in an attempt to topple the government, disrupt public order and cut off communication between Khulna and other districts. **The statement further alleges that they raised slogans in support of the banned BCL and the Awami League, which is currently facing restrictions on its political activities, creating panic among local residents.** Police said the group fled the scene before officers arrived after being alerted. It is also alleged that the group had been involved in secret meetings, fundraising, recruitment efforts to reorganise banned organisations, and activities aimed at destabilising law and order. Inspector Md Mizanur Rahman said police operations were ongoing to arrest the accused (*Times of Bangladesh*, [03 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Cabinet committee formed to review draft 'Visa Policy 2026':** The government has formed a cabinet committee, headed by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, to review and revise the draft of the proposed "Visa Policy 2026". The move is part of an initiative to update the existing visa policy, introduced in 2006, to make the entry and exit of foreigners easier, more orderly and service-oriented, the Prime Minister's Office press wing said in a press release after the 11th cabinet meeting. The home ministry, which initiated the proposal, will provide secretarial support to the committee. According to the press release, the proposed policy aims to modernise the country's immigration framework and make visa services more efficient (*The Daily Star*, [02 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **HRSS reports 9 killed in political violence, 31 in criminal incidents in June:** Nine people were killed and 346 others injured in political violence across the country in June. During the same period, 31 more people were killed in violence related to theft, robbery, mugging and mob lynching. Furthermore, 352 women and girls were subjected to violence, while 47 journalists faced torture and harassment in 39 separate incidents. These findings were highlighted in the monthly human rights monitoring report published by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS). In a press release issued on Thursday, HRSS stated that the report was compiled based on news published in 16 national dailies, the organisation's own data and fact-finding reports. According to the report, the nine deaths and 346 injuries occurred across 58 incidents of political violence in June. In comparison, May saw five deaths and 289 injuries in political clashes. **The**

report noted that three people were killed and at least 146 injured in 21 incidents of internal feuds within the BNP. Additionally, two people died and 36 were injured in eight clashes between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, while 14 clashes between the BNP and Awami League left two dead and 115 injured. Among the deceased, five were members of the BNP, three belonged to the Awami League and one was a member of an extremist group. The report stated that most of the violence was linked to local dominance, political rivalries, intra-party feuds and extortion. At least nine people were killed and 22 others injured in 12 incidents where miscreants attacked political leaders and activists. Furthermore, at least 15 people sustained gunshot wounds in political violence, while 45 incidents of attacks, vandalism, looting and arson occurred at houses, businesses and party offices (*Prothom Alo*, [03 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **One killed in nine shrine attacks in six months:** At least nine shrines were targeted in a series of attacks during the first half of the year, leaving one person dead and ten others injured, according to a report published by Maqam: Center for Sufi Heritage. Law enforcement intervened to halt one Urs festival, while a separate attack targeted another Urs gathering in 2026, with the majority of these targeted shrines being subjected to looting, said the report published on Wednesday. Issued by Maqam executive director Mohammad Abu Sayed, the report noted that out of the verified attacks, cases have been filed in only two incidents, with investigations leading to seven arrests to date. **The organisation also said that Jamaat-e-Islami and its student affiliate, Islami Chhatra Shibir, have been accused of direct involvement in at least two major incidents, while the Khelafat Majlis was implicated in one** (*New Age*, [03 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **TIB on raft law to curtail NHRC independence:** Transparency International Bangladesh on Thursday expressed concern over the proposed draft of the National Human Rights Commission Act, saying that if enacted in its current form, it would significantly weaken the commission's independence and authority. The anti-corruption watchdog said that the draft law diluted the powers necessary for the commission to function independently and effectively, raising questions about the government's commitment to establishing a credible national human rights institution. TIB executive director Iftekharuzzaman made the remarks at a consultation titled 'Draft National Human Rights Commission Act 2026: Review and Recommendations by the Human Rights Forum Bangladesh and TIB' held at the organisation's office in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. He warned that imposing a government-controlled and ineffective human rights commission would ultimately undermine both public confidence and the government's own interests (*New Age*, [03 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Inqilab Moncho UK chapter launched:** Inqilab Moncho on Thursday officially launched its UK chapter to build a society based on justice free from discrimination and safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty. The organization shared the information in a Facebook post on Friday morning. However, it did not disclose the names of the committee members. In the post, the organization wrote: "May Allah accept our journey. Bless our efforts. May Inqilabi Salam and Mubarak be with all members of the new committee" (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Chief Whip says No real difference between constitution amendment and reform:** Chief whip in the Jatiya Sangsad Md Nurul Islam said on Thursday that he saw no fundamental difference between the government's proposal to amend the constitution and the opposition's call for constitutional reform. He said that both sides were pursuing the same objective through different approaches. Speaking at a post-budget press conference at the LD Hall of the Jatiya

Sangsad in the capital, Nurul Islam said that the government was committed to implementing all reform proposals agreed upon by political parties and insisted that constitutional amendments and broader reforms could proceed simultaneously. **The chief whip said that the prime minister had made it clear in his speech in parliament that all political parties would work together on reforms outside parliament, while the government would continue the constitutional amendment process within parliament** (*New Age*, [03 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **11 of 15 convicts sentenced to death, including Hasina, remain fugitives:** So far, six tribunal verdicts have sentenced 61 individuals for crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising. Among them, 15 individuals, including ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, have been sentenced to death. Out of these death-row convicts, 11 are fugitives, while 4 are in custody. Additionally, 46 defendants have received various prison terms, including life imprisonment. Among these, 11 individuals, including former Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Dhaka Range Syed Nurul Islam, have received life sentences. **An analysis of the six verdicts shows that 40 out of the 61 convicted individuals are fugitives, while 21 are in custody. Chief Prosecutor of the tribunal, Md. Aminul Islam, told Prothom Alo that they are satisfied with some of the judgments while dissatisfied with others.** The prosecution (the state) has appealed against those verdicts where the sentences were not satisfactory. The trial proceedings for the cases related to crimes against humanity that occurred in July are advancing rapidly. One case is awaiting a verdict, and another two to three cases are nearing completion (*Prothom Alo*, [03 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **China says Bangladesh-Myanmar economic corridor will remain open to other countries:** China remains committed to establishing an economic corridor with Bangladesh and Myanmar but says the initiative remains open to India and other countries if they decide to join. Responding to a question on Wednesday about the prospect of a four-country economic corridor involving India, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said: "This cooperation is not the end of the game. We are open. We welcome other countries if they are ready. But it is up to them to decide whether they want to join or wait and see. **China is determined to proceed with Bangladesh and Myanmar to build this economic corridor.**" The ambassador described the proposed corridor as a new strategic opportunity, recalling that discussions on a Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor had begun around 15 years ago but failed to make progress because India did not show interest. He said China remains open to India and any other countries joining the initiative, but those countries would need to make their own decisions. Yao also said the proposed corridor could eventually help facilitate the repatriation of Rohingya refugees, although he acknowledged that China would need to work closely with the Myanmar authorities, given the country's security situation. The Chinese Ambassador to Dhaka, Yao Wen, also stated that in response to Dhaka's request, China has come forward with the large-scale Teesta project, which is directly linked to the lives and livelihoods in the northern region. Beyond this, China has no other concerns (*bdnews24.com*, [02 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [02 July 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [02 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Soil removal beneath Padma Rail Link viaduct in a planned way:** Railways, as well as Road Transport and Bridges Minister, Shaikh Rabiul Alam has said that soil is being removed in a planned manner from beneath the viaduct in the Aliganj area of Fatullah, Narayanganj, in line with the design of the Padma Bridge Rail Link project. He said the excavation was necessary and was not being carried out haphazardly. Rather, the work is being undertaken as

part of the project's approved design and contractual obligations. It poses no threat to the safety of the viaduct. Earlier, Brigadier General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Sayem, project director of the Dhaka-Mawa Padma Bridge Rail Link project, gave a detailed presentation on the necessity of the soil removal, the project design and the safety of the viaduct. Shaikh Rabiul Alam said some media reports had presented the issue in a way that suggested the viaduct would be put at risk because of the soil removal, creating confusion among the public. In reality, he said, the situation was entirely different (*Prothom Alo*, [02 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **US envoy hails military, people-to-people ties with Bangladesh:** US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen said military-to-military cooperation and strong people-to-people ties remain the foundation of the Bangladesh-US partnership, describing music as a unique bridge that brings the two nations closer. Speaking at a musical performance jointly organised by the Bangladesh Air Force Band and the US Army's 25th Infantry Division "Tropic Lightning" Band at the Air Force Museum in Dhaka, the ambassador said military musicians are among the finest diplomats as they communicate through the universal language of music. The event was organised as part of the US Embassy's "Freedom 250 America Week" celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the United States (*BSS News*, [02 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **China, Bangladesh will explore new diplomatic, defence cooperation platforms:** China and Bangladesh are discussing new platforms to better align diplomatic and defence cooperation as the two countries seek to advance ties under their newly announced "China-Bangladesh Community with a Shared Future", Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen has said. Referring to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman's upcoming role as president of the next UN General Assembly, Yao said: "The two foreign ministers will talk more about strategic issues related to our bilateral relations and also regional and international issues." Explaining the proposed two-plus-two mechanism, he said China sought not only high-level political exchanges but also extensive defence cooperation. "With this platform, that means more alignment on the diplomatic sector and defence sectors they see together. "So that's a way to enhance our strategic communication, mutual trust and cooperation on these issues". The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh also said China firmly opposes foreign interference in the affairs of any country and stands by Bangladesh in resisting any such interference. The joint statement issued following the prime minister's visit to Beijing said China rejects any form of foreign interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs (*bdnews24.com*, [02 July 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [03 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh reaffirms unwavering support for Palestinian people's rights:** Bangladesh on Sunday reaffirmed its continued support for the people of Palestine, reiterating its steadfast commitment to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine. The assurance came when Ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh Yousef S Y Ramadan paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kabir at the prime minister's office on Sunday morning, said a press release. During the meeting, the two sides held warm and fruitful discussions on the historic and brotherly relations between Bangladesh and Palestine, bilateral cooperation, and issues of mutual interest (*Dhaka Tribune*, [02 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks global support against evolving terrorism threats:** Bangladesh has called for stronger international cooperation to combat the evolving threat of terrorism, warning that terrorist groups are increasingly exploiting artificial intelligence, encrypted communications, virtual assets and other digital technologies. Addressing the UN General Assembly debate on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on Wednesday, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury reaffirmed the country's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations, according to a message received here today. The ambassador said Bangladesh has established a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism. He noted that the country's counter-terrorism efforts are supported by close coordination among its law enforcement agencies to effectively prevent and respond to evolving security threats. Ambassador Chowdhury stressed that counter-terrorism measures must remain firmly grounded in the rule of law and full respect for human rights (*BSS News*, [02 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh religion minister says creating confusion over 'Kalema-featured flags' unacceptable:** Religious Affairs Minister Kazi Shah Mofazzal Houssain Kaikobad has warned against confusion, degradation or political misuse of flags imprinted with the Kalema Tayyiba or other Islamic symbols. Addressing a discussion at the Islamic Foundation office in Dhaka's Agargaon on Thursday, Kaikobad said any such attempt creates confusion in society and can destroy national unity. "It is the religious duty of every Muslim to protect the dignity of the sacred symbols of Islam and religious symbols." Flags bearing the Kalema Tayyiba on a white or black cloth background recently emerged in parts of the country. Analysts and rights activists warn that similar imagery has been used by extremist groups in other parts of the world and could be exploited to portray Bangladesh as vulnerable to militancy. Experts fear a vested quarter may try to "expose Bangladesh as a terrorist state" by displaying this flag (*bdnews24.com*, [02 July 2026](#)).

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