

# DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

06 July 2026

## Takeaways

### Politics

- ◆ **BNP-AL attacked anti-extortion protest in Gulistan, alleges Jamaat:** Several people were injured when leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami allegedly came under attack during a protest procession against extortion and illegal occupation in Dhaka's Gulistan on Saturday, according to the party. Police, however, gave a different account, saying they had no information about any organised attack and that only a brief scuffle had occurred. Abdus Sattar Sumon, assistant publicity secretary of Jamaat's Dhaka Metropolitan South unit, alleged that local BNP activists, along with activists of the Awami League -- whose activities remain banned -- attacked the procession with knives, iron rods and sticks while Jamaat leaders, activists and traders were gathering for the demonstration. According to him, 15 to 20 traders and Jamaat activists were injured in the attack. He said three of the injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab wounds. **Police, however, disputed the party's account. Bangshal Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) aid around 20 to 25 Jamaat supporters had gathered at the spot, possibly for a meeting, which police believed may have been an attempt to establish control over the market. The OC said one Jamaat activist sustained minor injuries during the altercation but denied allegations of stabbings or multiple casualties** (*The Daily Star*, [04 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Parliament debates Islami Bank, Jamaat's 1971 role, ministers' absence:** The second session of the 13th National Parliament was the budget session. However, discussions were not confined to revenue, expenditure, taxation or budget allocations. One of the most debated political issues during this year's budget discussions was the role of the current opposition party, Jamaat-e-Islami, during the 1971 Liberation War. **BNP lawmaker Rafiqul Islam called for banning the politics of parties that had opposed the country's independence.** During the session, a motion tabled by Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman triggered a heated debate between the ruling party and the opposition over the ownership, management and political influence surrounding Islami Bank. Debate over 'push-ins' postponed. **A notice seeking a parliamentary debate on alleged push-ins by India's Border Security Force (BSF) and border killings was submitted by Mir Ahmad Bin Kashem, a lawmaker from Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.** The notice was accepted and a date was set for the discussion. However, on 14 June, the scheduled day of the debate, Deputy Speaker Kaiser Kamal announced that it had been postponed due to "unavoidable circumstances." **The opposition repeatedly questioned the absence of government ministers during the budget debate.** Opposition leader Shafiqur Rahman also raised the issue, saying, "It is often seen that when a ministry is being discussed, no representative from that ministry is present in the House. Whether this is consistent with the dignity of Parliament is for the Speaker to decide." **During the current parliamentary session, Prime Minister and Leader of the House Tarique Rahman visited Malaysia and China from 21 to 26 June. The day after his return, on 27 June, Parliament unanimously adopted a motion expressing thanks to the prime minister. The opposition staged a walkout on one day during the current session.** On 28 June, during the budget debate, Local Government Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed criticised Jamaat-e-Islami's role in the 1971 Liberation War and the party's politics. The opposition then walked out of

Parliament, alleging that two bills had been introduced without prior notice, copies of the bills had not been provided in advance, they had been denied the opportunity to speak on points of order, and the ruling party had been allotted comparatively more speaking time (*Prothom Alo*, [05 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Cabinet Division bans use of PM Tarique's photo on banner in government events:** The government has issued a circular prohibiting the use of the prime minister's photograph on banners, festoons, and billboards prepared for official government events. He said, "While travelling from his residence in Gulshan to the Secretariat this morning, the honourable Prime Minister Mr Tarique Rahman noticed that his photograph was being displayed on banners and festoons prepared for a programme organised by a ministry." "After arriving at his office in the Secretariat, the prime minister summoned the cabinet secretary and instructed him to take the necessary measures." Following the prime minister's directive, the cabinet division issued an official circular. **According to the circular, signed by Deputy Secretary Tania Afroz of the cabinet division, the use of the prime minister's photograph—whether in 3D or any other form—on banners, festoons, or billboards prepared for any government event is strictly prohibited. The circular further states that, when preparing banners, festoons, and billboards for government programmes, priority must be given to the subject matter of the event. Only relevant and appropriate information should be presented. The design should clearly reflect the purpose, message, and theme of the event, ensuring that its objectives are communicated effectively. As the circular is considered important, it takes effect immediately** (*bdnews24.com*, [05 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Home Minister says Awami League buried in Delhi, to face trial:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Saturday said the Awami League had been "politically destroyed" and was now "buried in Delhi," asserting that the party would never again be able to participate in Bangladesh's politics. He also said the party would soon face trial as a political organization, citing recent legal amendments allowing the prosecution of political parties. The remarks came at a discussion marking the second anniversary of the July Revolution during the July National Conference-2026, held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center. The event was jointly organized by the July '24 Martyrs' Families Society and the central executive committee of Amra July Joddha (We Are July Fighters). Prime Minister Tarique Rahman attended the program as the chief guest. Referring to the findings of a UN report, Salahuddin questioned discrepancies between the reported number of victims and officially documented cases. Referring to the July killings, the home minister criticized ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina for not apologizing. "The Awami League has fallen politically; it has been politically destroyed and eliminated. It has been buried in Delhi. That Awami League will never be able to do politics in Bangladesh again." **He also warned against exploiting the legacy of the July Revolution for political gain. Drawing a comparison with the Awami League, he added: "Those who used to sell the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War are sitting in Delhi today selling their spirit. The people of Bangladesh overthrew them. Therefore, selling the spirit for political advantage is not good"** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [04 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ICT chief prosecutor says Awami League faces legal reckoning under own statutes:** The Awami League is being investigated as a political party under laws enacted during its own tenure in power, with the International Crimes Tribunal's (ICT) chief prosecutor saying a conviction could lead to the party being banned. On Sunday, Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Aminul Islam said the investigation covers allegations of crimes against humanity under the

International Crimes (Tribunals) Act and terrorism under the Anti-Terrorism Act. If an organisation is convicted under either law, the government may issue a gazette notification declaring it a banned organisation, while its assets may be seized by the state alongside criminal penalties for those found individually responsible, he said. **Aminul noted that the legal provisions now being invoked were introduced or strengthened under successive Awami League governments.** The International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, enacted in 1973, was amended in 2013 to bring “organisations” within its scope. The Anti-Terrorism Act was passed in 2009, while Article 47 of the Constitution was amended in 2011 during the party's rule. He also pointed out that the Awami League itself relied on Section 18 of the Anti-Terrorism Act to ban Jamaat-e-Islami on Aug 1, 2024. Rejecting suggestions that the legislation was politically motivated, Aminul argued that a law cannot be deemed invalid simply because of how it is later applied (*bdnews24.com*, [05 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Case petition filed against Yunus, 3 others over measles-related child death:** The Father of a child who died after contracting measles has sought to file a criminal case against former chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, former health adviser Nur Jahan Begum, and two other former officials, accusing them of negligence, dereliction of duty, violation of the law, and causing death through negligence in connection with the country's measles outbreak. Sirajul Islam, the bereaved father, filed the petition on Sunday with the court of Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jashita Islam. **A Dhaka court is going to decide on Jul 12 whether to accept a petition seeking criminal proceedings against former chief advisor Muhammad Yunus and former health advisor Nurjahan Begum over the alleged negligent deaths of children from measles** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 July 2026](#); *bdnews24.com*, [05 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP begins nationwide ‘July March’ today:** The National Citizen Party is set to launch its nationwide programme, ‘July March 2026’, on Monday to mark the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising and press for the implementation of the 2026 referendum, greater employment opportunities and stronger border security. The month-long campaign will include marches in all 64 districts and 100 upazilas and municipalities across the country. According to the schedule, Sarjis Alam and chief coordinator Nasir Uddin Patwary would lead the campaign in the northern region, while Hasnat Abdullah and Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan would lead the marches in the southern region. Speaking at the press conference, Sarjis said that the programme aimed to commemorate the 2024 July Mass Uprising and campaign for what he described as its core aspirations, including democracy, justice and the building of a ‘new Bangladesh.’ NCP joint convener Ali Ahsan Junaid said that the month-long campaign would engage people from different sections of society, honour those killed during the July movement and promote the ideals of the uprising among younger generations. **However, the National Citizen Party (NCP) will not go to Gopalganj this time as part of its ‘July March’ campaign. Instead, on 16 July, which will be observed as July Martyrs’ Day, the party’s local leaders and activists in Gopalganj will hold prayers and munajat (supplication). None of the party’s central leaders will attend the programme, with “certain security concerns” cited as the primary consideration** (*Prothom Alo*, [05 July 2026](#); *New Age*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Government sends 33 senior police officers into forced retirement:** The government has sent 33 senior officers of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Police) cadre to forced retirement. The decision was announced in a notification issued by the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs on Sunday. The retired officers include 14 Deputy Inspectors General (DIGs), 18 Additional DIGs and one Superintendent of Police (SP). **Following the fall of the Awami League government on 5 August 2024 in the face of a student-led mass uprising, these officers**

were attached to various police units. Among them, two are currently under arrest, while many others are absconding. During the Awami League administration, many of these officers held key positions in different police units. Moreover, The government has transferred nine deputy inspector generals (DIG) and superintendents of police (SP) of Bangladesh Police on Sunday. (*Prothom Alo*, [06 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [05 July 2026](#)).

## Economy

- ◆ **Govt clears Starlink to export unfiltered internet bandwidth:** Bangladesh has approved Starlink's proposal to export unfiltered internet bandwidth to neighbouring countries, marking the first time the government has formally permitted a satellite internet service provider to carry cross-border internet traffic through the country. The approval allows Starlink to use International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) connectivity from Bangladesh to provide unfiltered internet bandwidth exclusively to customers outside the country's borders. Officials said the decision will not affect internet services within Bangladesh and is expected to create new business opportunities for local telecom infrastructure companies while supporting the country's ambition to become a regional digital connectivity hub. According to official documents, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) granted the approval after receiving clearance from the Posts and Telecommunications Division (PTD) (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 July 2026](#)).

## Foreign Policy

- ◆ **US envoy for strengthening people-to-people ties with Bangladesh:** US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen underscored the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties between Bangladesh and the United States, saying they want to share more of America's history and values to deepen mutual understanding. The US Ambassador to Bangladesh also urged Bangladesh to undertake bold economic reforms to unlock greater American investment, calling for a new era of bilateral relations built on reciprocal trade, private sector-led growth and long-term commercial partnership. He said the proposed US-Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) would provide a framework for expanding bilateral trade and investment, fostering innovation, creating quality jobs and strengthening long-term business cooperation between the two countries. However, he stressed that Bangladesh must accelerate reforms by reducing bureaucratic complexities, tackling corruption and ensuring a level playing field through greater market competition. **Christensen identified energy, digital technology, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, defense and security as key sectors with significant potential for expanded bilateral cooperation.** The ambassador made the remarks while visiting the "American Fair" organised as part of the United States' Freedom 250 celebrations. **Prime Minister's adviser and spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Mahdi Amin called on US investors to expand their investment in Bangladesh, saying the government is committed to ensuring a level playing field, policy stability and a business-friendly environment to attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).** "The government considers the private sector as the main engine of economic growth and will provide all possible policy support to facilitate investment," he said (*BSS News*, [04 July 2026](#); [04 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [04 July 2026](#)).



- ◆ **Bangladesh honours Ali Khamenei, holds talks with Iran's leadership:** Bangladesh has formally condemned the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, four months after initially expressing only grief and condolences following his death in US and Israeli attacks. Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad conveyed Bangladesh's position during a meeting with Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in Tehran on Friday, where he is leading Bangladesh's delegation to Khamenei's state funeral. **In a statement, the foreign ministry said Hafiz expressed "profound condolences" over the "tragic demise" of the "His Eminence" Ayatollah Khamenei and condemned his "brutal killing". "He conveyed the solidarity of the Government and the people of Bangladesh with the Government and the brotherly people of Iran during this period of national mourning," the statement said.** Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad has paid tribute at the state funeral of Iran's former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran. He also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior leaders, conveying condolences from Bangladesh's government and people to the Iranian nation. **Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman also reiterated Bangladesh's solidarity with the people of Iran and expressed profound condolences over the death of the country's Supreme Leader.** He made the remarks when Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi paid a courtesy call on him at the foreign ministry here, said a ministry's press release (*bdnews24.com*, [03 July 2026](#); [04 July 2026](#), *BSS News*, [05 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Opposition leader, Spanish envoy discuss post-election situation, bilateral ties:** Leader of the Opposition Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman on Sunday discussed Bangladesh's post-election situation and other issues with Spain's Ambassador to Bangladesh Gabriel Maria Sistiaga Ochoa de Chinchetru at his National Parliament Building office. **According to a press release, the two sides exchanged views on Bangladesh's overall political and economic situation after the national election, the recently passed national budget, and ways to further deepen the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Spain.** Their discussions also covered expanding cooperation in trade, investment and development, alongside other issues of mutual interest. The implementation of the national budget and the challenges and possible solutions to the Rohingya crisis also featured prominently in the talks. Both sides stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral trade and investment, broadening development cooperation and strengthening people-to-people contacts between the two countries (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Home minister Salahuddin leaves Dhaka for NY to attend 'UNCOPS' summit:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed will leave for New York early today to attend the fifth United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS-V), scheduled to be held at the UN Headquarters on July 7-8. **During the visit, the minister will attend the inaugural session of the summit on July 8 at the UN General Assembly Hall and participate in a number of high-level plenary sessions.** This year's summit will feature three key plenary sessions titled 'The Future of United Nations Policing,' 'Innovation and New Technologies in UN Policing,' and 'Strengthening International Cooperation to Address Transnational Challenges.' The home minister will also attend a high-level official dinner to be hosted on the sidelines of the summit. During his stay in New York, Salahuddin Ahmed is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with UN Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary A. DiCarlo. He is also expected to hold separate bilateral meetings with home ministers and senior officials from several countries (*BSS News*, [05 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Security Cooperation: Bangladesh receives 5 patrol boats from Japan:** Japan has handed over five patrol boats to the Bangladesh Navy under the Official Security Assistance (OSA) as part

of efforts to strengthen security cooperation between the two countries. This is the first OSA project for Bangladesh, which was decided by the government of Japan as the OSA FY2023 project, said the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday. This aims to assist the Bangladesh Navy operating in the Bay of Bengal by enhancing its operational capabilities for monitoring, surveillance and disaster relief through the provision of the patrol boats. Through this assistance, it is expected to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of maritime security not only in the Bay of Bengal but also in the Indo-Pacific region (*Prothom Alo*, [03 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Fakhrul hopes for stronger Bangladesh-JICA ties:** Local government, rural development and cooperatives minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Sunday, mentioning the Japan International Cooperation Agency as one of Bangladesh's largest development partners, expressed the hope that cooperation between Bangladesh and JICA will be further strengthened in the future. He said JICA's contribution to the country's infrastructure development, local government system, safe water supply and various public service sectors is highly significant. The minister made the remarks when JICA president TANAKA Akihiko paid a courtesy call on him at his office at secretariat in Dhaka, said a release. During the meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on the ongoing and future development plans of Bangladesh and JICA. They also exchanged views on various issues, particularly waste management, water management, capacity building in the local government sector and sustainable urban development (*New Age*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Saudi invites PM to visit Kingdom, Dhaka reciprocates:** Saudi Arabia has invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to visit the Kingdom, with the invitation formally conveyed by the Saudi ambassador during a meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat here today. The invitation was extended through a letter from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, which was handed over to the Prime Minister by Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Zafer H. bin Abiyah at the Cabinet Division of the Secretariat. **Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, in return, invited the Saudi Crown Prince to pay an official visit to Bangladesh.** Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Humaiun Kobir disclosed the development at an emergency press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs later in the day. He said the timing of the Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia would be finalised through consultations between the two governments. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation (*BSS News*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dhaka reaffirms commitment to safe migration:** State minister for foreign affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Sunday reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to the implementation of the 'Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration' as a GCM, Global Compact for Migration, champion country. She made the remark when newly appointed chief of mission of the International Organization for Migration in Bangladesh Laura Nicole Tomm-Bonde met her at the ministry in Dhaka. During the meeting, the state minister highlighted the government's priority of transforming Bangladesh's migration sector into a skills-based, rights-based and well-governed system. She also expressed the government's strong focus on skills development, recognition of qualifications, ethical recruitment, protection of migrant workers in destination countries, regular labour mobility pathways and the sustainable reintegration of returnee migrants, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*New Age*, [06 July 2026](#)).

## Security

- ◆ **Fresh shelling in Myanmar's Rakhine revives fear along Bangladesh border:** After nearly a year of relative calm, heavy shelling and explosions have again rattled Myanmar's Rakhine State along the Naf River, reviving fears among residents in Bangladesh's border areas. **The Myanmar military shelled parts of Rakhine on Wednesday and Thursday, with explosions clearly heard across the border in Teknaf. Residents there believe fighting has resumed between Myanmar's conflicting groups. The renewed violence has alarmed the millions of Rohingya refugees living in camps in Cox's Bazar, many of whom still have relatives in Rakhine. Rakhine families living in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban are also contacting relatives across the border after reports of fresh airstrikes. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has stepped up surveillance amid fears that displaced Rohingya could attempt to cross the border ([bdnews24.com, 03 July 2026](https://bdnews24.com/03-July-2026)).**
- ◆ **Push-in attempt foiled in Moulvibazar, 10 people sent back to India:** An attempt by India's Border Security Force (BSF) to push 10 individuals into Bangladesh through the Kachargul border of Juri upazila in Moulvibazar was thwarted, officials said on Friday. The incident was confirmed by Lieutenant Colonel Ataur Rahman, commanding officer of the 52 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion. According to officials, the incident occurred in the early hours of Thursday (July 2), when BSF allegedly attempted to push the group across the border. Local residents spotted the movement and, with assistance from BGB personnel, the individuals were brought under control. **The group comprised two men, seven women, and one child. Following detention, BGB verified their identities and conducted checks regarding their citizenship status. However, none of the individuals were able to produce valid documents proving Bangladeshi citizenship. After verification, and ensuring no illegal crossing took place, BGB sent the group back to India the same night (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 July 2026](https://www.dhakatribune.com/03-July-2026)).**
- ◆ **BGB, locals foil 'push-in' attempt after BSF switches off border lights:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local residents foiled a push-in attempt by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) involving a group of people into the country on Friday night. The incident took place at the Chakpara border in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, leading to a night-long standoff between the two sides. Local sources said the tension began around 9:45 pm when BSF personnel abruptly switched off the border security lights near pillar 183/3-S. Sensing an imminent 'push-in' attempt, locals used loudspeakers to alert the community. **Within minutes, over 500 residents armed with sticks and torches gathered at the border to join BGB patrols in a vigilant watch. According to witnesses and former local chairman Md Mozammel Haque, the BSF was forced to turn the lights back on due to the massive presence and protests from the Bangladeshi side. Four BSF vehicles and several individuals in plainclothes were spotted on the Indian side during the incident. In a press release issued Saturday morning, the 59 BGB Battalion confirmed that the joint efforts of the battalion and villagers foiled the illegal intrusion attempt (*Prothom Alo*, [04 July 2026](https://www.prothomalo.com/04-July-2026)).**
- ◆ **India's border 'push-ins' leave undocumented families stranded as legal questions mount:** The episode has reignited questions over whether undocumented people can legally be forced across an international border without their nationality first being established. **The latest wave of push-ins has emerged despite renewed efforts by Dhaka and New Delhi to improve bilateral relations under Bangladesh's new BNP-led government. Analysts trace the development to political changes in neighbouring West Bengal, where the BJP returned to power in May and announced plans to implement the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), first passed in 2019 and brought into force before India's 2024 general election. The law offers a pathway to Indian citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh,**

Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before Dec 31, 2014. International law contains no formal definition of "push-in" or "pushback". But legal experts broadly regard such actions as conflicting with the principle of non-refoulement, enshrined in Article 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which prohibits returning people to places where their lives or freedoms may be at risk. **Human rights standards also require authorities to determine a person's identity, explain the reasons for detention and provide access to judicial review before deportation.** Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) protects individuals against arbitrary detention, while Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations requires foreign nationals in custody to be allowed contact with their consular authorities. Lawyers argue that when nationality is disputed, repatriation should occur only after verification and diplomatic engagement between the two countries. **Human rights organisations in India have also challenged the practice. Bypassing diplomatic verification leaves vulnerable families trapped in the zero line under the open sky, a humanitarian limbo** (*bdnews24.com*, [04 July 2026](#)).

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*[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]*