

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

07 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Mahfuj Alam criticises alleged use of far-right groups in politics:** Former adviser to interim government Mahfuj Alam has alleged that far-right groups were used for political purposes and later abandoned after serving their role, making the claims in a strongly worded social media post on Monday. In the post, titled "Game Over, Khoda Hafez!", Mahfuj criticised what he described as the use of extremist elements as "mercenaries" in incidents of mob violence, including attacks on shrines, newspaper offices, and cultural institutions. He claimed that certain right-wing political actors had relied on far-right groups to achieve electoral objectives but were now distancing themselves from those elements after the political process had ended. Mahfuj further alleged that over the past two years, far-right groups had been nurtured by political actors and had attempted to portray the July uprising as an exclusively "Islamic," "traditionalist," or "revivalist" revolution. According to him, this narrative contributed to growing disillusionment with the July movement among secular and Liberation War-minded sections of the middle class (*Daily Sun*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **15th Amendment: Final verdict from the Appellate Division may come in mid-July:** The final verdict in the appeal filed challenging the validity of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution may come in mid-July, hopes Dr Sharif Bhuiyan, the lawyer representing the petitioner in the case. The hearing of the case resumed after more than six months at the bench headed by Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury in the Appellate Division on Monday. After the hearing, Sharif told reporters: "One of the judges of the current bench will retire in mid-July. Therefore, we hope that the court will conclude the hearing and announce the verdict before then." The hearing of the much-discussed case, directly tied to Bangladesh's electoral system, had previously begun under the tenure of then chief justice Syed Refaat Ahmed. The case was deferred near the end of his term (*bdnews24.com*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **EC begins preparations to hold local government polls from October:** The Election Commission has begun preparations to hold local government elections from October, Commissioner Abdur Rahmanuel Masud said. He said the EC will consult the government before deciding when each set of local polls will be held. Speaking to reporters at an event organised by the Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy (RFED) at the EC headquarters on Monday, Masud said the commission favours a phased start to Union Parishad and municipality elections after considering the practical challenges. "All elections -- city corporations, municipalities, Upazila Parishads, district councils and Union Parishads -- cannot be held together," Masud said. "We will discuss with the government which ones are more urgent. Based on that, we will announce the schedules." He said the EC is preparing to announce election schedules at least 45 days before voting (*bdnews24.com*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM orders high-level committee on food safety, anti-adulteration drives:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman directed the formation of a three-member high-level committee to identify challenges faced by agencies responsible for ensuring safe food, maintaining product standards, and conducting anti-adulteration drives. According to a press release from the Prime

Minister's Office, the committee will comprise Public Administration Adviser Ismail Jabiullah, State Minister for Public Administration Abdul Bari, and Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Gani. It has been asked to submit a report within one month, outlining both immediate and long-term problems and recommending solutions (*The Daily Star*, [06 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Directive to keep 3 books, including 'President Zia of Bangladesh: A Political Biography' in govt primary schools withdrawn:** The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has withdrawn its directive requiring all government primary schools across the country to keep three books in their libraries. The books are: 'President Zia: Rajnoitik Jiboni' (President Zia of Bangladesh: A Political Biography), Begum Khaleda Zia: Jibon O Shongram' (Begum Khaleda Zia: Her Life, Her Story), and 'Sobar Age Bangladesh' (Bangladesh First). The ministry last month instructed the Directorate of Primary Education's director general to take the necessary steps to implement the directive. According to sources, last month the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued a directive to the director general of the Directorate of Primary Education titled, "Preservation of one set of books (comprising three titles) for reading in the library of every government primary school." The directive requested the directorate to take the necessary steps to ensure that each school library preserved one set comprising the three books (*Prothom Alo*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP youth wing dispute exposes deeper factional tensions:** A heated exchange between senior leaders of ruling BNP's youth wing has exposed growing factional tensions within the organisation. An emergency meeting of Jubo Dal, the party's youth front, held Sunday at the BNP central office in Nayapaltan, was suspended after a confrontation between President Abdul Monayem Munna and General Secretary Mohammad Nurul Islam Nayan reportedly escalated into the use of derogatory language. The 5 July meeting was convened to address media reports regarding the inclusion of "inactive and controversial" figures in a recently announced 151-member executive committee. According to those present, the dispute began when Munna questioned the political background and long-term absence of Vice President Firoz Abdullah. In response, Nayan challenged the roles of several figures linked to previous political movements, including Md Kamruzzaman, Shamsuzzoha Suman, and Monirul Islam Sohag. The discussion deteriorated as both leaders sought to deflect responsibility for the contested appointments, leading to a breakdown of order within the meeting room. **Sources familiar with the matter suggest the confrontation reflects a deeper struggle for influence within the BNP's youth structure, which is viewed as a key arena for the party's internal power balance** (*Times of Bangladesh*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Nahid Islam says Govt now denying referendum and July Charter:** National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam has said that Bangladesh held an election in February in which there were two votes: one was the referendum and one to elect member of parliaments (MPs). He further said that the referendum was on whether the country should pursue reforms, and that 70 per cent of Bangladeshis voted 'Yes' in favour of reform. "But the BNP government is now denying the referendum and the July Charter. It is deceiving the people. It is betraying the nation," he stated. **In his speech, Nahid presented five demands.** "We have come with five demands. The mandate of the referendum must be implemented, and reforms must be carried out accordingly. The country must be transformed in line with the aspirations that you and I had during the July mass uprising. It was for that change that we took to the streets against Sheikh Hasina. Secondly, we demand employment opportunities for young people," he said. As his third demand, Nahid Islam highlighted the country's power crisis. Among his other

demands, Nahid called for controlling the prices of essential commodities and restoring law and order across the country (*Prothom Alo*, [06 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Five injured in cocktail explosion at NCP rally in Savar:** At least five people, including two media workers, were seriously injured after miscreants detonated cocktail bombs at a “July March” rally organised by the National Citizen’s Party (NCP) in Savar. The explosion occurred at approximately 9:42 pm on Monday at the Tarapur Eidgah Maidan, under the jurisdiction of Savar Model Police Station, while the NCP programme was in progress. The blast triggered intense panic and tension among the audience, which included families of those killed and injured in the July uprising. Speaking in front of Savar Model Police Station after the blast, Nahid said the party would peacefully stay there and seek accountability from the police authorities over the attack. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has condemned the explosion at a National Citizen Party (NCP) rally in Savar's Tarapur Eidgah field, demanding the immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible. The party also alleged that members of the administration were involved in the attack. The allegation was made in a statement issued on Monday by Jamaat Secretary General and former MP Mia Golam Parwar (*Times of Bangladesh*, [07 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [06 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [07 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CPB protests at US Independence Day event on JS premises:** Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh held a rally on Monday protesting the event held on Saturday that celebrated the 250th Independence Day of the United States at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad. Its president Sazzad Zahir Chandan, said that holding the independence day event of imperialist America at the South Plaza was contrary to the national interest of sovereign Bangladesh, condemning Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government for allowing the US embassy to hold the programme there. Mentioning that they were against the country’s liberation war in 1971, he said that during the rule of the interim government, the US had signed an ‘unequal’ business deal with Bangladesh which was contrary to the national interests and also harmful for the economy of Bangladesh (*New Age*, [07 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Finance Minister Amir Khosru calls for rapid nationwide digitalisation across Bangladesh:** Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has called for the rapid digitalisation of Bangladesh, saying the country has "no option" but to embrace technology to drive growth and improve public services. The minister made the remarks on Monday while addressing the Innovation Showcasing 2025-25 programme organised by the Financial Institutions Division at the Secretariat. "We have decided that Bangladesh must be digitalised as quickly as possible, without wasting a single moment," he said. He said the government wanted digital services to reach every section of society. He urged banks and insurance companies to assess what proportion of their customers are actually receiving digital services (*bdnews24.com*, [06 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **SAARC’s goal needs to be made actionable: Shama:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said SAARC, founded on Bangladesh's diplomatic vision, remains strategically

important and can become a key instrument for advancing the country's future under the "Bangladesh First" foreign policy. "For Bangladesh, this is also where history and the future meet," she said while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled "Rebuilding Trust, Renewing Regional Integration: Pathways for Revitalising SAARC" at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) auditorium here. **She also said that revitalising the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation required rebuilding trust, strengthening institutions, and promoting practical cooperation.** Elaborating on the government's foreign policy priorities, Shama Obaed said the guiding principle of "Bangladesh First" goes far beyond a slogan. "In our foreign policy, it includes building a neighbourhood that supports Bangladesh's security, trade, climate resilience, food security, connectivity and global standing," she said. **The state minister said Bangladesh advocates revitalising SAARC through a pragmatic, step-by-step approach by allowing the organisation to function at an "optimal functional level" until the regional political environment becomes conducive to restoring summit-level activities** (*BSS News*, [06 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh joins international maritime liability conventions:** Bangladesh has joined international maritime liability conventions to help protect the marine environment, safeguard coastal communities, and ensure sustainable maritime trade. The Ministry of Shipping has taken a significant step by acceding to three key international maritime liability conventions in London. Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam formally handed over the instruments of accession to International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez at IMO headquarters in London, according to a press release received here. The move will further align Bangladesh's maritime legal and institutional framework with internationally recognized standards and best practices (*BSS News*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **IOM new mission chief praises Bangladesh role in safe migration:** New Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh Dr. Laura Tomm Bonde has praised Bangladesh for its responsible leadership as one of the champion countries implementing the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and congratulated the government on its achievements. Bonde said this as she paid a courtesy call on Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury at his office here. The new chief of mission also said IOM would continue its comprehensive support to sustain Bangladesh's remarkable progress in raising awareness, promoting successful reintegration of returnee migrants, ensuring safe migration, and advancing women's empowerment. **She also noted that the 20 specific commitments in the current government's election manifesto are closely aligned with IOM's global action plan and objectives** (*BSS News*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **EU president invites Bangladesh PM to Global Gateway Forum:** President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has invited Bangladesh prime minister Tarique Rahman to participate in the third edition of the Global Gateway Forum in June, 2027 and to deliver a keynote address at the Forum. Ambassador of the European Union to Bangladesh Michael Miller met foreign minister Khalilur Rahman at foreign affairs ministry on Monday afternoon and handed over the invitation. The Prime Minister's participation in the Forum is expected to create opportunities for further investment in sustainable infrastructure, digitalisation, energy, transport, health, and education under the EU's Global Gateway Initiative (*New Age*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM's Saudi visit to boost ties, trade, investment:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia will open a new chapter in Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia

relations by deepening diplomatic engagement and enhancing bilateral trade and investment, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Humaiun Kobir said on Monday. He made the remarks while briefing reporters at the foreign ministry after Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Jafar H Bin Abiyah paid a courtesy call on the prime minister at the Bangladesh Secretariat. During the meeting, the Saudi envoy handed over an invitation letter from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The adviser said the Saudi ambassador also conveyed greetings from the crown prince and informed the prime minister that the Saudi crown prince is also interested in visiting Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. "We will strengthen our diplomatic relations as well as the volume of trade and investment in our partnership," said Kabir. He said the development reflected the two countries' shared interest in further elevating their long-standing brotherly relations into a stronger strategic partnership (*Dhaka Tribune*, [06 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Hadi accused: India yet to clear accused's extradition:** Bangladesh has completed all legal and diplomatic procedures required to bring back the key suspects in the murder of Inqilab Mancha spokesperson Sharif Osman bin Hadi and is now awaiting India's approval for their extradition, officials said on Monday. **Meanwhile, Inqilab Mancha has announced a fresh protest program, demanding the extradition of the accused and a full investigation into what it describes as both domestic and foreign conspiracies behind the killing.** The principal accused fled to India through Meghalaya after the murder and later took refuge in Kolkata, where they were arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Government of West Bengal, CID Chief Barrister Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain told *Dhaka Tribune*. **"Bangladesh has completed all legal and diplomatic formalities required under the bilateral extradition treaty. We are now waiting for India to hand over the accused. We are fully prepared to receive them,"** he said. Mosharraf, however, could not say how long the transfer process might take (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Six remanded over suspected links to extremist group:** A Dhaka court on Sunday placed six youths on a three-day remand each after they were shown arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on suspicion of involvement in the activities of an extremist organisation. The accused are Shah Amanat Sabir, Hossain Tanim, Junaid, Ataullah Shah, Abidur Rahman, and Bayejit. According to the remand petition, law enforcers conducted a raid in the Mini Cox's Bazar area following intelligence reports that several individuals gathered there and were undergoing training for an extremist organisation. The suspects allegedly tried to flee during the raid but were arrested. **During preliminary questioning, they failed to provide any satisfactory explanation for their gathering. Police suspected that they might have been involved in the activities of an extremist organisation** (*Daily Sun*, [06 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UPDF and JSS exchange bullets, 3 killed in Khagrachhari:** Three people were killed in a gunfight between the regional political organisations—the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF–Prosit) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS)—in Khagrachhari today, Monday, police said. The incident took place at Madhumangal Para in Chengi Union of Panchhari Upazila in the district at around midday. Panchhari police station

officer-in-charge Md Ferdous Wahid confirmed the deaths, saying the two rival groups exchanged gunfire over a dispute for territorial dominance. "The gunfight broke out at Madhumangal Para around midday, leaving three people dead," he said. The OC said the identities of the deceased had yet to be established. Police have been dispatched to the scene, and further details will be released after the bodies have been recovered. Neither the JSS nor the UPDF had issued any immediate statement on the incident (*Prothom Alo*, [06 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **50 Bangladeshis return from India after serving jail:** India's Border Security Force has handed over 50 Bangladeshi nationals, including 44 men and six women, to the Border Guard Bangladesh at the Benapole border, officials said. Several returnees said that they were later detained by Indian police, produced before courts and sent to jail before being transferred to shelter homes in Kolkata. **They said that they had gone to Tamil Nadu in India at various times in search of work. Later they served in jail for two years for illegally entrance in the country.** 'Traffickers persuaded us to go to India in the hope of a better livelihood,' said one of the returnees (*New Age*, [07 July 2026](#)).

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