

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

08 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Plea to keep supreme judicial council, Article 102 after scrapping 15th Amendment:** A group of petitioners are pushing for the Supreme Judicial Council and the amendment to Article 102 of the Constitution to be maintained even after the 15th Amendment is repealed. The plea was made during the Appellate Division's hearings on the 15th Amendment on Tuesday. In addition, the court has been requested to refrain from giving a verdict on the matter as another case regarding Article 116, which deals with the control of judges in lower courts, is pending at the top court. The High Court declared some parts of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution null and void on Dec 17, 2024, after finally settling the writ petition filed by Badiul Alam Majumdar, the editor of Citizens for Good Governance (SHUJAN), and others (bdnews24.com, [07 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM praises army role, stresses readiness:** Prime minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday praised the Bangladesh Army's role during national crises and in maintaining law and order while inspecting the summer exercise of the Bangladesh Army. For the first time in the country's history, a prime minister personally visited the Army's summer training as he toured the area of 8 BIR under the Bangladesh Army's 9th Infantry Division in Singair upazila of Manikganj on foot and spent an extended period with soldiers in the field, said prime minister's deputy press secretary Jahidul Islam Rony. During the visit, the prime minister toured different parts of the 'firm base' and was briefed by the general officer commanding and the unit's commanding officer on the ongoing training activities and overall strategic preparedness, he added. Tarique attentively listened to a commander's verbal operational order and observed a raid exercise conducted by the soldiers. He also toured various aspects of the exercise, including troop deployment on the battlefield, combat tactics, the use of weapons, and realistic training methods. The prime minister entered an army bunker and exchanged views on battlefield tactics with the participating officers and soldiers (*New Age*, [07 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **11-party alliance calls for reform council session:** The 11-party alliance and representatives of families of those killed and injured in the July uprising have urged the Speaker of Parliament to convene an immediate session of the Constitutional Reform Council to begin implementing the verdict of the referendum. They submitted a memorandum to the Speaker on Tuesday, outlining six demands, including implementation of the referendum verdict, trial of those responsible for the July mass killings, and rehabilitation and compensation for the families of victims. Among their key demands are an immediate session of the Constitutional Reform Council, a time-bound plan for implementing the referendum outcome, and swift and exemplary punishment for those accused of involvement in the July killings. The memorandum also called for constitutional and institutional reforms in line with the spirit of the July movement, proper rehabilitation and compensation for the families of the deceased and injured, preservation of the history of July, and opening the "July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum" to the public by 5 August, 2026. The signatories said ensuring justice, fairness and the fulfilment of people's democratic aspirations is necessary to honour the sacrifices of those who lost their lives. They expressed hope that

Parliament would take an active role in implementing the demands (*Times of Bangladesh*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Government to identify officials accused of propping up Awami League rule:** The government has begun identifying public servants accused of openly helping the Awami League stay in power longer, State Minister for Public Administration Md Abdul Bari has said. Responding to a question from Kurigram-1 MP Anwarul Islam in parliament on Tuesday, Bari said multiple agencies were working to identify officials over their alleged pro-fascist government activities. "The government has a plan to take action against them after identifying them," said the state minister (*bdnews24.com*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Two Jubo League men on remand over cocktail blast at NCP Savar rally:** A Dhaka court on Tuesday granted a two-day remand for two Jubo League members arrested in connection with a cocktail explosion at the National Citizen Party (NCP) July march rally in Savar. Dhaka Judicial Magistrate Tajul Islam Sohag passed the order after hearing both the prosecution and the defence. The accused are former Jubo League leader Md Nurul Islam, 52, and Jubo League activist Md Sajib, 32. Earlier in the day, the investigating officer and Savar Model Police Station Sub Inspector Md Shakhawat Imtiaz produced the two before the court and sought a seven-day remand for further interrogation. Defence lawyers pleaded for bail and the rejection of the remand request, while the prosecution argued in favour of remand. After hearing both sides, the court granted a two-day remand (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **They should wait a little: PM's adviser on Awami League leaders and activists:** Zahed Ur Rahman, the Information and Broadcasting Adviser to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, has called on leaders and activists of the Awami League, whose activities are currently banned, to wait until the party's trial at the International Crimes Tribunal is concluded. He said that if the court ultimately determines that the party should not be banned, then its members will be able to resume political activities. He emphasised that the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the court (*Prothom Alo*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh will take up India-based Awami leaders' remarks with Delhi, advisor says:** The government will raise the issue of "provocative remarks" made by Awami League leaders based in India with New Delhi at the state level, Prime Minister's Information Advisor Zahed Ur Rahman has said. He said the government had previously spoken up about what these leaders were doing from India, and would continue to do so, since many of them faced court cases, arrest warrants or had already been convicted. "Talking to them [Awami League leaders] is out of the question, we're actually supposed to get them handed over to us. We've been raising this at the state level regularly, and we'll keep doing so," he said at a weekly press briefing at the Department of Information in the Secretariat on Tuesday (*bdnews24.com*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **'Initial evidence confirms AL's role in crimes against humanity':** International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said on Tuesday that preliminary evidence has been found indicating that the Awami League (AL), as a political party, was involved in crimes against humanity during the July uprising, potentially paving the way for a long-term judicial ban on the party. Speaking to reporters, Aminul Islam said the ICT investigation team had launched a comprehensive probe after uncovering the initial evidence. The investigation would be completed "within a matter of time", he said. Asked about the nature of the

preliminary findings, the chief prosecutor said the evidence suggested that the Awami League, as a party, was involved in the atrocities committed during the July uprising by the government led by it. The current BNP-led government has already imposed a ban on the Awami League's political activities and is awaiting judicial endorsement to make the restriction permanent (*Daily Sun*, [08 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Major reshuffle underway at the foreign ministry:** The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government has decided to make significant changes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs five months after taking office. Along with appointing a new Foreign Secretary, the government is set to appoint new faces as Bangladesh's Permanent Representatives to New York, High Commissioners to Delhi and London, and Permanent Representative to Geneva. Among these, appointments in New York and London are being made based on political considerations. A government policymaker confirmed the planned changes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Prothom Alo on Tuesday. After the BNP government assumed office in February, it instructed four ambassadors, who were appointed during the interim government, to return home. Additionally, three professional diplomats have been appointed as ambassadors in three countries over the last two months. Multiple officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting anonymity, have informed this correspondent that Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to New York, is being appointed as the Foreign Secretary. The current Foreign Secretary, Asad Alam Siam, is being appointed as the next High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Delhi (*Prothom Alo*, [08 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Local polls: Reform plan triggers concern:** The Election Commission is preparing a series of changes to laws, rules and procedures ahead of the upcoming local government elections. However, one of the EC proposals, recommending increase in the number of voters assigned to each polling booth by 50 per cent, has already triggered concern within the commission itself. The proposal to increase the number of voters assigned to each polling booth from 400 at present to 600 has drawn objections from EC officials, who fear it could create long queues and make it difficult to complete voting within the scheduled time. Later, he suggested extending polling hours by 30 minutes at both ends to manage increased vote load. Several EC officials told TIMES of Bangladesh that the idea was based on the experience of the 13th parliamentary election, when the number of voters per polling booth was increased from 500 to 600. However, they said local government elections present different challenges. Unlike parliamentary elections, local polls involve voting for multiple positions. In union parishad elections, for example, voters cast separate ballots for the chairman, general members and reserved women members. Officials said voter turnout in local elections is often higher than in parliamentary polls, making it more difficult to manage a larger number of voters at each booth (*Times of Bangladesh*, [08 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Opinion polls show 3 in 4 Bangladeshis support PM Tarique's leadership:** A recent opinion polls has showed that most Bangladeshis support the way Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is leading the nation. Media outlet The DeltaGram conducted the polls four months after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party formed government following a landslide election victory. The survey of 3,000 adults, conducted between 12 and 24 June by a team of interviewers trained and fielded directly by outlet, found that 75.3% of respondents approved of Tarique's performance, while 17.5% disapproved and 7.2% had no opinion. Approval was strongest in Rangpur division, at 83.1%, and weakest in Dhaka, at 70.4%. Rural respondents approved at a notably higher rate than urban ones, 78.5% against 70.1%, and support held up fairly evenly across age groups,

dipping only among the over-60s, at 70.9%. The figures point to a strong early honeymoon for Tarique's government, which took office on 17 February after the BNP's victory in Bangladesh's first general election since the 2024 uprising that removed Sheikh Hasina from power (*Daily Sun*, [08 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **'Implement July charter or risk political conflict':** The Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance has demanded the immediate formation of a Constitution Reform Council to implement the July National Charter and warned that Bangladesh could face political conflict if the verdict of the referendum is not implemented. Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar made the demand while addressing a human chain in front of the NAM Building of parliament after submitting a memorandum to Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. "If the referendum verdict is not implemented, the country's politics could move towards conflict," he said. He said they had urged the Speaker to take the necessary legal steps, together with the prime minister and leader of the house and the leader of the opposition, to implement the referendum verdict endorsed by majority of voters. According to Porwar, the speaker assured them of discussing the matter with the PM (*The Daily Star*, [08 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Opposition Leader Shafiqur seeks China's support for early Rohingya repatriation:** Opposition Leader in Parliament and Jamaat Ameer Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman on Tuesday sought China's support for an early resolution of the Rohingya crisis and the repatriation of the displaced Myanmar nationals to their homeland. He made the request when Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen met him at his office-cum-residence in Dhaka. The two leaders held cordial and fruitful discussions on a range of issues relating to the mutual interests of Bangladesh and China, said a press release of the Parliament Secretariat. They expressed optimism that the longstanding friendship between the two countries would continue to grow stronger, particularly in the fields of economic cooperation, politics, trade and diplomacy. Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to working together to further accelerate bilateral cooperation and promote development and shared prosperity. The meeting included detailed discussions on the proposed Teesta Barrage Mega Project, the China-Myanmar-Bangladesh Economic Corridor, Chinese investment in Bangladesh and several proposed development projects (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama urges stronger Bangladesh-CIS trade for growth:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today called for expanding trade and investment cooperation with East European and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, describing the region as a promising yet largely untapped market for Bangladesh. She made the call when a delegation of the Board of Directors and office-bearers of the Commonwealth of Independent States-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CIS-BCCI) paid a courtesy call on her at foreign ministry here, said a ministry's press release. Shama said the present government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, is working to broaden and strengthen cooperation with potential but underexplored regions, including the East European and CIS countries. Highlighting the importance of diversifying Bangladesh's export destinations and attracting greater investment, the state minister said countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan offer significant opportunities for expanding Bangladesh's trade. She stressed the need for

exchanging business delegations to explore untapped prospects in trade, investment and broader economic cooperation (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Bangladesh ready to host BIMSTEC sectoral meetings:** Shama: State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today said Bangladesh is ready to host BIMSTEC sectoral meetings, as mutually convenient, during its chairmanship to facilitate the timely implementation of the regional bloc's decisions and priority initiatives. She made the remarks when Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Indra Mani Pandey paid a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry here, said the ministry's press release. During the meeting, the state minister reaffirmed Bangladesh's continued commitment to the BIMSTEC process and reiterated the government's resolve to further strengthen regional cooperation during Bangladesh's chairmanship of the grouping. Reiterating the government's foreign policy priority of "Bangladesh First," she stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation in key areas, including trade and investment, connectivity, energy, climate change and people-to-people contacts to deliver tangible benefits for the peoples of the Bay of Bengal region (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

❖ **UK pledges support to strengthen democracy as British envoy meets Fakhrul:** The United Kingdom has pledged to continue providing all necessary support to further strengthen democracy in Bangladesh as British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke met LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the Secretariat here today. Issues including local government elections, education, investment, climate change, migration, women's empowerment, and local government were discussed during the meeting, said an official handout. Fakhrul said his ministry along with the Election Commission is working to begin local government polls with Union Parishad elections in phases by next December (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Bangladesh reaffirms commitment to expanding UN peacekeeping role:** Bangladesh has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding its role and capabilities in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations during a bilateral meeting between Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Atul Khare, UN Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Operational Support (DOS). The meeting was held at Room S-2729 at the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday (New York time) in a cordial atmosphere, said a Home Ministry press release. During the discussions, the two sides exchanged views on operational support for Bangladeshi military and police contingents deployed in UN peacekeeping missions, expediting reimbursement processes, environmental sustainability, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, and Bangladesh's preparations to deploy specialized police contingents to Haiti (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Bangladesh signs two disaster cooperation MoUs with UK, ICRC:** Bangladesh today signed two separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the United Kingdom (UK) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to strengthen disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and institutional resilience. The agreements were signed at the Secretariat under the directive of the Prime Minister's Office to enhance Bangladesh's disaster resilience, reinforce humanitarian preparedness and expand international cooperation. The first MoU, signed between the governments of Bangladesh and the United Kingdom, establishes an institutional framework for cooperation in disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance. The second agreement, signed between the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is

a Strategic Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (SPMoU). Under the agreement, the two sides will work together to strengthen Bangladesh's national capacity and resilience in responding to disasters (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **UK pledges continued support for women, children and social welfare initiatives:** British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke today reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Bangladesh in the areas of women's and children's rights, social protection and development. She gave the reaffirmation during a meeting with Social Welfare and Women and Children Affairs Minister Professor Dr AZM Zahid Hossain at his office at the Secretariat. A wide range of issues, including sustainable development of women and children, gender equality, women's economic and political empowerment, female education, prevention of child marriage, cyberbullying and eliminating violence against women and children were discussed. The minister said the government remains committed to building a humane and justice-based Bangladesh by taking a firm stand against corruption and working to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh, Netherlands pledge closer cooperation in water resources management:** Bangladesh and the Netherlands today reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in water resources management, with a focus on knowledge sharing, technology transfer, research and capacity building. The commitment was made when Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne met Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh Joris Van Bommel at the Bangladesh Secretariat. State Minister for Water Resources Forhad Hossain Azad was also present at the meeting (*BSS News*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **UGC, Pakistan HEC to boost higher education ties:** The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and Pakistan's Higher Education Commission have agreed in principle to strengthen cooperation in higher education through a memorandum of understanding, focusing on research, academic exchanges and institutional development. The understanding came during a courtesy meeting between UGC chairman Professor Mamun Ahmed and Pakistan high commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider at the UGC headquarters in Dhaka on Tuesday, said a press release (*New Age*, [08 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Minister claims Malaysia reopens labour market:** Expatriates welfare and overseas employment minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury on Tuesday claimed that Malaysia had reopened its labour market for Bangladeshi workers on Monday following Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to the country. 'Malaysia reopened its labour market for Bangladeshi migrants yesterday. We have also held discussions with several Middle Eastern countries, Japan, South Korea, and Mauritius to reopen their labour markets for Bangladeshis,' he told reporters in Sylhet. However, *New Age* could not independently verify the claim as no official announcement had been made by the Malaysian government by Tuesday evening to the end. Several Malaysian newspapers reported that the country's government had decided to revise its foreign worker recruitment system, but none confirmed that recruitment from Bangladesh had resumed (*New Age*, [08 July 2026](#)).

Security

◆ **10 Bangladeshis return serving jail terms in India:** Ten Bangladeshi nationals returned through the Tamabil land port in Sylhet on Tuesday after serving varying jail terms in India for illegally entering the country. Md Bazlur Rashid, in-charge of the Tamabil immigration police, told *New Age* that India's Border Security Force handed over the 10 Bangladeshi nationals to Gowainghat

police in the presence of Border Guard Bangladesh officials through the Tamabil Immigration Checkpoint at around noon. He said the returned told the authorities that they had entered India through the Guchchhagram border at Gowainghat in Sylhet and the Kaliganj border at Shibganj in Chapainawabganj in search of work. They were later arrested by Indian police on charges of illegal entry and produced before a court, which ordered their imprisonment, he added. After serving their sentences at Toba Jail in India, they were repatriated following a request from the Bangladeshi authorities, the immigration police officer said (*New Age*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **NCP expels leader after arrest for alleged extremist links:** The National Citizen Party on Tuesday expelled a leader, two days after he was arrested over alleged involvement with an 'extremist organisation'. Ataulah Shah, a joint member secretary of the NCP's Gazipur metropolitan unit convening committee, was expelled for engaging in activities contrary to the party's policies and ideals, according to a notice signed by the party's office cell member, Sadia Farzana Dina. Police on Sunday arrested six people over their alleged involvement with an extremist organisation in the capital's Jatrabari area (*New Age*, [07 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Six groups continue to keep CHT in the grip of fear:** Six armed outfits continue to keep the residents of the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) in the grip of fear, according to an intelligence agency. Members of these groups are allegedly backed by foreign powers as part of their blueprints against Bangladesh, sources at the agency said. The outfits are the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF-Main), UPDF (Democratic), Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS-Main), JSS (Reformist), Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) and MNP. The districts of the CHT are under the clutches of these groups. The KNF and JSS (M) have retained their dominance in Bandarban, while Rangamati is under the menace of JSS (M), UPDF (M) and MNP, and Khagrachhari is under the menace of UPDF (M) and JSS (M), the intelligence agency revealed (*Daily Sun*, [08 July 2026](#)).

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