

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

09 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **NCP leader expelled after arrest on suspicion of involvement with extremist organisation:** A leader has been permanently expelled from the National Citizen Party (NCP) due to suspicion of involvement with the activities of an extremist organisation after being arrested in Jatrabari, the capital. **The leader, Ataullah Shah, was the joint member secretary of the NCP's Gazipur Metropolitan Unit.** Yesterday, Tuesday, a letter signed by Sadia Farzana, a member of the NCP's office cell, announced the expulsion order. The letter addressed to Ataullah was published late last night on the NCP's verified Facebook page. Meanwhile, Ataullah, who was arrested, is currently in police remand (*Prothom Alo*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Taher appointed head of public accounts committee:** The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee has been formed with Syed Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Taher, deputy leader of the opposition and member of parliament for Cumilla-11, as its head. **This marks the first instance in the current parliament where the chairmanship of a committee has been granted to the opposition.** The proposal for the committee's formation was moved during a parliamentary session on Wednesday, by Chief Whip Mohammed Nurul Islam on behalf of the Leader of the House. The session was presided over by Barrister Kaiser Kamal. The proposal was subsequently adopted unanimously following a voice vote. While placing the proposal, the Chief Whip stated that the important committee was constituted in strict adherence to the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of Parliament (*Times of Bangladesh*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hasina's ouster was shared objective of July movement:** Zahed Ur Rahman, adviser to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Cultural Affairs, has said the shared objective of the July uprising was the downfall of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The adviser made these remarks as the chief guest at a programme titled 'Monone July', organised by the Department of Film and Television at the central auditorium of Jagannath University on Wednesday. Zahed noted that since the 2011 constitutional amendment which abolished the caretaker government system, it was clear which path Hasina was taking. He mentioned that he had been vocal about this issue across various platforms, including blogs, newspaper columns, and talk shows, since that time. **Drawing from that experience, he asserted that the unified demand of the July movement was the departure of Sheikh Hasina and the creation of a democratic Bangladesh, as her greatest crime was the disenfranchisement of the people's democratic rights.** Regarding various political thoughts in the post-movement period, he observed that different ideas have emerged following the success of the uprising. While some have proposed an Islamic Republic, a revolutionary government, or the rewriting of the constitution, he emphasised that the primary goal must remain the establishment of a democratic Bangladesh (*Times of Bangladesh*, [08 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Interim govt conspired to defeat 11 parties:** Opposition Leader and Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman on Wednesday alleged that a conspiracy was orchestrated to defeat 11 political parties in the 13th Parliamentary election and claimed that the interim government was also involved in the process. "We wanted an election. But we did not want a conspiracy in the name of an election," he said while addressing a seminar titled "Spirit of the Mass Uprising, Implementation of the Referendum Verdict and Trial of the July Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity" in capital's Kakrail. "There was a conspiracy. We condemn it. **The interim government, whose identity was that of a neutral and non-partisan administration, was also part of this conspiracy. They themselves have admitted that 11 parties were defeated through a conspiracy," he alleged.** Referring to the election process, Shafiqur said there had been "many dramas" before the national election and that two elections were held on the same day under the same order. He said we opposition parties accepted the election results and took oath, while the ruling party took oath immediately and another delayed it before later explaining its position. According to him, those parties accepted everything at the time only to cross the "electoral hurdle," but did not genuinely accept the process (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Plan to end all local govt polls in 10-12 months:** The government is moving ahead with plans to hold Union Parishad (UP) elections in the first half of October after announcing the election schedule in the second half of August. Afterwards, it intends to hold elections for municipalities, Upazila Parishads, Zila Parishads and City Corporations in phases. The Election Commission (EC) has also begun preparations, giving priority to the Union Parishad elections. Citing Election Commission sources, Zahed Ur Rahman, adviser to the Prime Minister, told a press conference at the Secretariat on Tuesday that the EC had prepared an initial framework for the upcoming local government elections. **It has drafted separate roadmaps for the Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, Municipality (Pouroshova) and City Corporation elections.** The EC may finalise and publish these roadmaps by the end of the current month (*Prothom Alo*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM says Govt pursuing all out diplomatic efforts to resolve Rohingya crisis:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday said his government is pursuing vigorous diplomatic efforts at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to secure an early and peaceful resolution to the Rohingya crisis. "The BNP government is carrying out strong diplomatic efforts on all bilateral, regional and multilateral fronts to resolve the Rohingya crisis at the earliest," he said while responding to a starred question from Sirajganj-1 lawmaker Md Salim Reza during the question-and-answer session in parliament. He also reiterated his government's commitment to the safe, voluntary and sustainable repatriation of the displaced people to Myanmar. The prime minister said the government remains firmly committed to a peaceful and speedy solution to the Rohingya crisis. **He reiterated that the only durable solution lies in Myanmar's Rakhine State and said Bangladesh has stepped up diplomatic efforts to increase international pressure on Myanmar to create conditions for the safe, voluntary and sustainable return of the Rohingyas. The prime minister said the government is maintaining contacts not only with Myanmar's military authorities but also with all relevant parties to facilitate repatriation.** Confidence-building measures and the verification of Rohingya identities are also continuing, alongside third-country resettlement efforts. **Describing the crisis as a complex and sensitive international issue, he said its resolution depends largely on the security situation in Rakhine, international pressure and the willingness of the Myanmar authorities. He also stressed the importance of creating a platform for dialogue between the Myanmar government and the Arakan Army to help restore stability in**

Rakhine. On the domestic front, the prime minister said the government has adopted practical and coordinated measures to maintain security in the Rohingya camps, preserve harmony with host communities and improve humanitarian assistance (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Jubo Dal expels 300 leaders and activists nationwide:** Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal has expelled around 300 leaders and activists across the country for activities deemed contrary to the organisation's ideals, its President Abdul Monayem Munna announced today. Speaking at a press conference at a hotel in Nayapaltan, Dhaka, Munna said criminal cases had also been filed against many of those expelled to protect the organisation's reputation and principles. The press conference was organised to brief the media on "current politics and future work plans." Munna mentioned that disciplinary action had also been withdrawn against some individuals after further investigation. "We want to clearly say that no person or group will get the chance to carry out illegal activities by using the name of the organisation," he said in a written statement (*The Daily Star*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM unveils multi-sector reform roadmap at JS:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman told parliament on Wednesday that the government has drawn up sweeping roadmaps to stabilise the capital market, modernise the armed forces, transform agriculture, expand overseas labour markets and secure the permanent repatriation of Rohingya refugees, alongside a pledge to make women's education free up to degree level. Addressing the Jatiya Sangsad during a question-answer session, with Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad in the chair, the Leader of the House set out the initiatives in response to questions from members. **On defence modernisation, the prime minister said the government had budgeted around Tk86,000 crore over the next decade to turn the army into a technology-dependent, multi-dimensional force, with a National Defence Industrial Policy being drafted to chart a path towards self-reliance. The plan includes new tanks and armoured fighting vehicles, modern artillery and rocket systems, anti-tank weapons and air defence systems, alongside unmanned aerial vehicles and counter-UAV technology to bolster surveillance. The government also intends to build strategic stockpiles of ammunition and missiles, and to develop a "Made in Bangladesh" defence industry through dedicated industrial zones and technology transfer.** Responding to woman MP Helen Zerin Khan, the prime minister announced that female education would be made entirely free up to graduation (Honours/Degree) level. Responding to Mymensingh-6 MP Md Kamrul Hasan, the prime minister said the government was working to transform agriculture into a technology-driven, competitive and sustainable sector through remote sensing, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, drones, satellite imagery and big data, alongside efforts to revive a collapsed regional pineapple processing mill. He pointed to the "Farmer Card" and the forthcoming "Khamari App", a digital portal to give farmers real-time advice on crop suitability, fertiliser use and weather forecasting. On preventing seasonal price drops and spoilage, he said 3,500 airflow preservation machines had been distributed to onion-producing hubs and 900 model storage houses built in high-yield districts such as Faridpur, with a further 8,000 machines planned. **The prime minister also announced that Bangladesh was set to begin exporting jackfruit to China, following a bilateral agreement signed during his recent visit to Beijing, drawing a comparison with Malaysia's success in exporting durian to the Chinese market** (*Daily Sun*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **SC verdict upholds reinstatement of caretaker govt and referendum provisions:** The apex court of the country has dismissed the appeals filed against the High Court verdict concerning the 15th amendment to the Constitution, which had introduced several changes,

including the abolition of the non-party caretaker government system. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, delivered the verdict Thursday morning. As a result, the High Court's judgment reinstating the caretaker government system and the provision for referendums stands upheld, according to lawyers. Three separate appeals had been lodged against the High Court's ruling on the 15th amendment. One was filed by four individuals, including Badiul Alam Majumdar, the Secretary of Citizens for Good Governance (SHUJAN); another was submitted independently by Md. Mofazzal Hossain, a resident of Naogaon. In addition, Mia Golam Porwar, the Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, filed a separate appeal (*Prothom Alo*, [09 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Italian envoy meets PM's Defence Adviser to strengthen defence ties:** Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Antonio Alessandro paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam at the Armed Forces Division (AFD) office in Dhaka Cantonment. During the meeting, they exchanged greetings and recalled the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Italy, said a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate this afternoon. **They discussed ways to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations, with particular focus on defence cooperation and modernization of military training.** The two sides also discussed enhancing opportunities for members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces to participate in training programmes at Italian military institutions and exchange expertise to improve their professional skills and capabilities, the ISPR said. **They also exchanged views on cooperation for the modernization of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, as well as the significant contributions of both countries to UN peacekeeping missions and future joint efforts to uphold global peace and security** (*BSS News*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Energy minister stresses Bangladesh-Türkiye G2G cooperation to narrow trade gap:** Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood stressed the importance of government-to-government (G2G) cooperation in helping narrow the trade gap between Bangladesh and Türkiye. **He also welcomed continued Turkish investment and reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding Türkiye's participation in the country's energy sector, including LNG supply, during a courtesy call by Turkish Ambassador Ramis Şen at his ministry office.** During the meeting, the ambassador, who led a delegation, congratulated the minister on assuming office and conveyed the continued goodwill of the government of Türkiye towards Bangladesh. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the growing economic and energy cooperation between Bangladesh and Türkiye and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties in the energy sector (*BSS News*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks Tajikistan's support for SCO membership:** Bangladesh today sought Tajikistan's support for its aspiration to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), as the two countries pledged to deepen bilateral cooperation and expand engagement with Central Asia. The issue came up when Tajik Deputy Foreign Minister Idibek Kalandar paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at her office here, said a foreign ministry's press release tonight. **The state minister highlighted Bangladesh's growing diplomatic engagement with Central Asia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries as part of the government's strategy to broaden geopolitical connectivity**

and diversify its foreign policy outreach. She sought Tajikistan's support for Bangladesh's aspiration to become a member of the SCO, noting that several Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, are members of the regional organisation. The Tajik deputy foreign minister responded positively and assured Bangladesh of his country's support for its SCO membership aspiration (*BSS News*, [08 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Tajikistan sign FOC MoU to deepen ties:** Bangladesh and Tajikistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) to institutionalise a regular consultation mechanism, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations across political, economic and regional cooperation. **The MoU was signed before the first-ever Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries held in the capital.** Foreign Secretary Ambassador Asad Alam Siam and Tajik Deputy Foreign Minister Idibek Kalandar led their respective delegations at the consultations. The two sides attached high importance to recalibrating and expanding bilateral relations and agreed to further strengthen political engagement through reciprocal visits by the foreign ministers. **They also discussed the formation of a Bangladesh-Tajikistan Parliamentary Friendship Group to promote regular interaction between lawmakers of the two countries.** On trade, investment and economic cooperation, both sides agreed to encourage greater private sector engagement and exchanges of business delegations to unlock the untapped economic potential between the two countries. Dhaka also proposed the establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade and Economic Cooperation, signing of a memorandum of understanding between the apex chambers of commerce of the two countries and an exploratory visit by a Tajik business delegation. The discussions also focused on cooperation in mineral resources, with Bangladesh expressing interest in benefiting from Tajikistan's expertise and reserves of gold, aluminium, zinc, copper, lead and silver. The two countries also explored ways to strengthen people-to-people contacts through cooperation in education, sports, tourism and culture, as well as exchanges of students, youth and cultural troupes. Bangladesh also expressed interest in expanding employment opportunities for its highly skilled and semi-skilled workforce in Tajikistan (*BSS News*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks Netherlands partnership to tackle misinformation:** Bangladesh has sought to work with the Netherlands to curb the spread of misinformation and disinformation. On Wednesday, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon raised the proposal during a meeting with Dutch Ambassador Joris van Bommel at the Secretariat, according to the ministry. **The two sides also expressed interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in media, new media, artificial intelligence (AI) and the wider digital ecosystem, it added** (*bdnews24.com*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Germany deepen renewable energy partnership with TMED-GIZ deal:** To address the needs of the emerging labour market in the sustainable energy sector, the Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED) of the Ministry of Education and GIZ in Bangladesh, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has signed a landmark Implementation Agreement. **The agreement formalizes a joint commitment to advance the Vocational Training in the Field of Renewable Energy (TVET4RE) project.** The signing ceremony took place in Dhaka, drawing high-level dignitaries, government officials, and international development professionals. This initiative falls under the broader framework of German Development Cooperation, following

Germany's commitment of €21.77 million in January 2026 for sustainable development projects in Bangladesh. The signing marks the immediate transition to field-level implementation, building upon the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Economic Relations Division on June 11, 2026 (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Vietnam vow stronger security cooperation to combat human trafficking:** Bangladesh and Vietnam have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral security cooperation, with a strong focus on combating human trafficking, irregular migration and transnational crime, during a high-level bilateral meeting held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting, held on Tuesday in a cordial atmosphere, was led by Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Public Security, Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Van Long, according to a Home Ministry press release. **The two sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations through enhanced cooperation in security, law enforcement, trade, investment and connectivity, while intensifying joint efforts to curb human trafficking and illegal migration.** Salahuddin urged Hanoi to simplify visa procedures for genuine Bangladeshi tourists, business travellers, skilled professionals and family visa applicants, while presenting specific proposals to facilitate the return of undocumented Bangladeshi nationals. Emphasising the growing threat of cross-border crime, he called for stronger institutional collaboration between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries to tackle human trafficking, drug smuggling and other transnational criminal networks. Highlighting the growing economic partnership, the home minister noted that bilateral trade has already surpassed US\$1 billion and expressed confidence that the proposed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) would help double trade volume in the near future. He thanked Vietnam for approving the import of Bangladeshi potatoes and requested greater market access for internationally certified Bangladeshi pharmaceutical products (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BFF receives 1,000 footballs from Pakistan High Commission:** The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka celebrated their shared passion for football on Wednesday, with Pakistan donating 1,000 made-in-Pakistan footballs to support grassroots development in Bangladesh. Pakistan High Commissioner Imran Haider handed over the footballs to BFF President Tabith Awal during a ceremony. Speaking at the event, Haider said Pakistan's city of Sialkot is globally recognized for manufacturing premium-quality sports goods, including footballs, and has produced the official match balls for the FIFA World Cups in 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2026. He said Pakistan's football manufacturing industry is renowned for its quality, craftsmanship, and innovation, expressing hope that the donated footballs would inspire more young Bangladeshis to take up the sport. **The high commissioner and the BFF president also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in sports.** Their discussions focused on sports medicine, international friendly matches, sports commerce, capacity-building initiatives, and exchange programs involving college and university teams (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pakistan envoy calls on social welfare minister:** Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider today paid a courtesy call on Social Welfare and Women and Children Affairs Minister Prof. Dr. AZM Zahid Hossain at the latter's office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Women and Children Affairs Secretary Yasmeen Parveen and Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner Mohammad Wasif were present during the meeting. **The two sides discussed matters of mutual interests, including women's education, prevention of child marriage, women's self-employment, agriculture, dairy, poultry, fisheries and bilateral trade and**

commerce. The Bangladesh minister expressed hope for Pakistan's positive cooperation in facilitating duty-free and barrier-free access for handicrafts and other products made by Bangladeshi women to the Pakistani market. The minister also urged Pakistan to import Bangladeshi mangoes, jackfruits and pineapples. High Commissioner Imran Haider said bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan has increased by 20 percent compared to the previous year and expressed optimism that the volume would continue to grow. He said that Pakistan offers duty-free access for up to 10,000 tonnes of Bangladeshi exports and urged the Bangladesh government to take advantage of the facility. The envoy also said Bangladeshi students have recently travelled to Pakistan to pursue higher studies in cyber security, nanotechnology and artificial intelligence (AI). He added that a delegation of Bangladesh Civil Service additional secretaries and joint secretaries recently visited Pakistan as part of an academic training programme and expressed hope that such cooperation would expand further in the future. The minister called upon Pakistan to increase the number of scholarships for Bangladeshi students. In response, the Pakistani High Commissioner expressed a positive attitude towards expanding the scholarship opportunities (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Sweden, UNDP strengthen partnership to support justice reforms in Bangladesh:** The Government of Sweden and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have extended their partnership agreement to provide an additional Swedish krona 3 million to support Bangladesh's ongoing justice reform efforts. The additional contribution will support advancing reforms aimed at making justice services more effective, accountable and people-centred, according to a press release. The partnership reflects Sweden and UNDP's continued commitment to strengthening institutions that serve citizens and uphold the rule of law. Through this support, the project will contribute to improving the capacity and responsiveness of the judiciary and the reform-readiness of Bangladesh's Attorney General's Office (*Daily Sun*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh calls for future-ready, technology-driven UN Police:** Bangladesh has called for a more adaptive, technology-driven and future-ready United Nations Police capable of responding effectively to increasingly complex global security challenges. **Speaking at the 5th United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit 2026 at the UN Headquarters in New York on Wednesday, Minister of Home Affairs Salahuddin Ahmed said:** "Tomorrow's security challenges cannot be addressed with yesterday's capabilities." He stressed the need for greater investment in highly skilled personnel, specialised expertise and innovative approaches as criminal networks become increasingly sophisticated and transnational, said a press release received from Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations on **Thursday**. Highlighting Bangladesh's contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations, the minister said the country has undertaken significant reforms to make its police force better equipped to respond to evolving challenges. He also proposed the establishment of a UN Police Knowledge and Innovation Network to promote the systematic sharing of expertise and best practices among member states (*Dhaka Tribune*, [09 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Bangladeshi migrants top list of sea arrivals in Italy:** Bangladeshis accounted for the highest number of migrants reaching Italy by sea route in the first seven months of 2026, while the overall number of sea arrivals dropped significantly compared with the previous two years. Data released by Italy's Ministry of Interior showed that 14,623 migrants from different

countries reached the Italian coast after crossing the Mediterranean between 1 January and 7 July this year. Bangladesh ranked first among the countries of origin, with 4,314 citizens arriving in Italy by sea during the period. The figure represents nearly one-third of all recorded arrivals (*Daily Sun*, [08 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Wait on for chargesheet in Shapla Chattar ‘massacre’ as investigation ends:** The investigation into the “murders and crimes against humanity” centring a Hifazat-e Islam rally at Dhaka’s Shapla Chattar 13 years ago has been completed. **The draft investigation report is now being scrutinised. Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam said on Wednesday the chargesheet will be filed in the case once the International Crimes Tribunal, which is on vacation, reopens on Jul 21.** The chief prosecutor claimed to have found evidence of charges against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, several security forces chiefs and many journalists. On May 3, the investigators told the ICT they had found evidence that 32 people were killed during violence surrounding the 2013 rally in Motijheel (*bdnews24.com*, [09 July 2026](#)).

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