

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

10 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Info Minister says Govt to amend Press Council Act:** The government is preparing amendments to the Press Council Act to strengthen media accountability, introduce journalist registration and empower the Press Council **to act against false, misleading and unethical reporting**, information and broadcasting minister Zahir Uddin Swapon said. Replying to a question from NCP lawmaker Md Abul Hasnat, the minister said the government remains committed to ensuring media freedom, professionalism, accountability and responsible journalism. He said the government does not support unauthorised, unprofessional or unethical activities carried out in the name of mobile journalism. **To address these issues, the government has proposed amending the Press Council Act, 1974, to transform the Press Council into a stronger, more effective and media-friendly institution.** The proposed amendments include setting minimum educational qualifications for journalists, introducing a journalist registration system similar to that of the Bar Council, imposing financial penalties for publishing false, harassing or unethical reports, and empowering the Press Council to launch suo motu investigations into incidents involving rumours, fake news, hate speech or reports deemed contrary to the national interest (*New Age*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Six including Jaber, Zuma part ways with Inqilab Cultural Centre:** Six top office-bearers of the Inqilab Cultural Centre platform, including Chairman Abdullah Al Jaber and Vice-President Fatima Tasnim Zuma, have stepped down from the organisation. They announced the decision on their respective Facebook accounts on Wednesday night. The others who resigned are the center's President Salahuddin Shuvo, acting Executive Director Fahim Abdullah, Financial Management Director Md Raihan, and Deputy Executive Director Habibullah Misbah. **The six people said they had decided to hand over all the centre's documents in response to demands from the family of slain Inqilab Moncho founder Sharif Osman bin Hadi.** The centre is the cultural wing of Inqilab Moncho, which was formed after the July Uprising (*bdnews24.com*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rizvi warns of plots, backs govt's democracy role:** BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on Thursday said the current government is working as the guardian of the country's independence, sovereignty and democracy, alleging that various conspiracies are being hatched against it. Rizvi, also prime minister's political adviser, said defeated forces may resort to various conspiracies and attempts to tarnish the government's image, asking party leaders and activists to remain vigilant. **He said BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has directed party leaders and activists to act like "guards and protectors" alongside members of the Hindu community during the upcoming Rath Yatra.** The BNP leader said the party had adopted the same approach during previous Durga Puja celebrations, with party leaders visiting puja mandaps, speaking to devotees and working to ensure their security. "This time as well, BNP will stand beside them during Rath Yatra and Ulto Rath celebrations so that no one can create provocation or exploit the occasion for political purposes," he said. Rizvi said people from the Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other

ethnic communities now understand who had previously attempted to divide the nation. He said the participation of people from all communities during the recent election and different religious festivals demonstrated that no anti-state force will be able to foil the country's "strong and united national harmony." The BNP leader urged the public, leaders and activists of his party and other democratic political parties to remain alert so that "anti-state forces or their agents" cannot create obstacles through provocation (*Dhaka Tribune*, [09 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Law Minister says next parliamentary election under caretaker govt:** The next national parliamentary election will be held under a caretaker government, Law Minister Md. Asaduzzaman has said. Earlier in the day on Thursday, the apex court of the country 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. Following this, the law minister shared his reaction at the Secretariat, where he made the remarks in response to questions from journalists. A newsperson had enquired whether the next national election would be conducted under a caretaker government. In reply, the law minister said, "Insha'Allah. **This is our political commitment. The caretaker government is the fruit of the BNP's movement**" (*Prothom Alo*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ex-CJ Khairul, ex-minister Menon shown arrested in fresh cases:** A Dhaka magistrate court on Wednesday ordered former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque to be shown arrested in a case filed with Banani Police Station over a murder attempt and violations of the Explosives Act linked to the 2024 July Mass Uprising. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Arifur Rahman passed the order following a virtual hearing. Meanwhile, a Dhaka special judge court showed former minister Rashed Khan Menon arrested in a case filed over alleged irregularities in the recruitment of teachers at Wills Little Flower School and College in the city. Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Md Shahjahan Kabir passed the order after police produced Menon before the court and sought permission to show him arrested in the case. The court later sent him back to jail. **Khairul has now been shown arrested in nine cases. Although he secured bail from the High Court in eight of those cases, the latest shown arrest has prevented his release from jail** (*New Age*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt promotes 172 deputy secretaries to joint secretaries:** The government has promoted 172 deputy secretaries to the rank of joint secretary in a major reshuffle of the civil administration, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Public Administration on Thursday. **The promotion marks the first large-scale elevation of officials since the new government assumed office.** Officials from the 25th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) administration cadre have also been promoted to the rank of joint secretary for the first time under the latest move. Several deputy commissioners are among those who received the promotion, the notification said (*Prothom Alo*, [09 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Production resumes at 9 closed jute mills, says commerce minister:** Production has resumed at nine jute mills after lease agreements were signed as part of the government's initiative to revive closed state-owned industries, Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktaadir has announced. He said that out of the 25 closed jute mills, 20 have been selected for leasing, and

lease agreements have already been finalised for 14 of them. Production has begun at nine mills. **"These mills have created employment opportunities for approximately 9,500 people and are currently producing around 160 metric tonnes of jute products daily," the minister said.** He made these remarks at a press briefing on Thursday following the signing of an agreement to lease an additional 14.80 acres of land belonging to the Narsingdi unit of Bangladesh Jute Mills Limited (BJML) to Jute Alliance Limited. The minister said that the new initiative is expected to attract around Tk 10.5 billion in investment (bdnews24.com, [09 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh targets 30% EV penetration by 2030 under new policy:** Bangladesh is aiming to achieve 30% electric vehicle (EV) penetration across all transport modes by 2030 under the proposed Electric Vehicle Industry Development Policy 2026. To advance that goal, the Ministry of Industries, in collaboration with GIZ Bangladesh, held a stakeholder consultation workshop on Thursday to develop a roadmap for the country's EV industry. **The consultation focused on strengthening the country's industrial and regulatory framework to help achieve the target set out in the Electric Motor Registration and Operation Guideline 2023.** Participants discussed policy reforms, regulatory measures, and infrastructure requirements needed to accelerate the country's transition to electric mobility. Road transport accounts for 81% of Bangladesh's transport sector emissions, making the shift to EVs both an environmental and economic priority. Speaking at the workshop, Industries Secretary Abdun Naser Khan said Bangladesh must prepare now to avoid missing out on a rapidly emerging industrial sector. "If Bangladesh fails to prepare adequately today, we will not only miss out on an emerging industrial sector, but also risk falling behind in the Global Value Chain (GVC)," he said. "Our target is not merely to become an importer of electric vehicles. Our ultimate goal is to establish Bangladesh as an EV manufacturing nation" (*Dhaka Tribune*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Muktadir reaffirms commitment to FTA with EU:** Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir today said the government is working sincerely to address the European Union's concerns, improve the investment climate, and remove trade barriers as Bangladesh prepares for a future Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU and its graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. He made the remarks during a meeting with EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller at the Planning Commission in Agargaon, where the two sides discussed strengthening bilateral trade, increasing investment, removing non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and advancing preparations for a Bangladesh-EU FTA. The government has already made significant progress in addressing issues raised by the EU and is committed to fulfilling all international obligations, the minister said. Muktadir said the government is creating a more conducive environment for foreign investment by reducing trade barriers and strengthening international confidence in Bangladesh's economy (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Finance Minister optimistic about achieving revenue target:** Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury expressed optimism that the National Board of Revenue (NBR) would achieve its revenue collection target for the 2026-27 fiscal year, citing the preparedness of tax officials and continued engagement with the business community. **"The revenue collection outlook for the current fiscal year is encouraging. Revenue collection will be very good. Everyone at the NBR is geared up. InshaAllah, we will achieve the revenue target we have set," he said.** The minister made the remarks while speaking to reporters after a meeting with senior NBR officials and business leaders at the Revenue Building in the capital's Agargaon.

The NBR has been assigned a revenue collection target of Tk 6.04 trillion for FY2026-27 (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh economy shows resilience despite moderating growth:** Bangladesh's economy continues to demonstrate resilience despite global and domestic challenges, with strong remittance inflows and steady growth in the services sector providing key support, according to the latest Asian Development Outlook (ADO) July 2026 released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ADB projected Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow by 3.7 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2026 and 4.5 percent in FY2027, noting that sustained reforms and improving macroeconomic conditions are expected to strengthen the country's growth momentum, said a ADB press release issued today. According to the report, growth in FY2026 will be underpinned by robust remittance inflows, steady expansion of the services sector and targeted credit support for priority sectors despite a tight macro-financial environment. The report said inflation is projected at 9.0 percent in FY2026 and is expected to ease gradually to 8.8 percent in FY2027 as economic conditions improve (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **EU launches new project on regional energy connectivity in South Asia:** The European union (EU) together with partners on Thursday launched an energy connectivity project in South Asia. **This €5 million EU-funded initiative aims at supporting a more connected regional power market that delivers affordable, clean and reliable electricity to people in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, says a press release.** Enhanced regional energy connectivity will strengthen energy security, create jobs and enhance economic growth in the region, in line with the EU's Global Gateway investment strategy. European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jozef Sikela, stated: "Energy connectivity powers our economies and daily lives. With the launch of this Global Gateway flagship, the European union is investing in cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable electricity that will strengthen resilience and unlock many opportunities for communities and businesses in South Asia. It shows that the partnership between the European union and South Asian countries is growing stronger." High-level government representatives, development partners, energy sector leaders, regulators, investors, and technical experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka gathered in Kathmandu today, Thursday for the regional launch of the Energy Connectivity in South Asia (ECSA) project, funded by the European union and implemented by Expertise France, to advance regional energy cooperation and cross-border electricity trade across South Asia (*Prothom Alo*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Cabinet approves Invest Bangladesh Bill to attract FDI:** The cabinet on Thursday approved the Invest Bangladesh Bill 2026, aiming to simplify, expedite and integrate services for investors through a unified institutional framework, attract domestic and foreign investment, and boost employment. The meeting, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and chaired by prime minister Tarique Rahman, also approved the draft National Renewable Energy Development Strategy 2026–2030 and the draft Import Policy Order, 2026–2029. **According to a Cabinet Division release, the proposed Invest Bangladesh Act seeks to integrate the functions of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority and the Public-Private Partnership Authority under a single coordinating body. This body would serve as the country's apex investment promotion and facilitation agency.** The statement noted that the proposed law aims to make investment-related services simpler, faster and more coordinated by streamlining approvals, registrations, import and export procedures, incentives, industrial zone development and access to government services. It

stated that the law is also expected to reduce policy inconsistencies in investment promotion, eliminate overlaps among existing agencies, enhance institutional coordination and establish an integrated investment management framework in line with international standards and best practices. The statement highlighted that the law's key provisions include integrating economic zones, free trade zones and other designated industrial areas under a coordinated framework, setting service delivery standards and timelines for licences and approvals, and bringing all investment and business-related services under a single digital platform. The cabinet also approved the draft National Renewable Energy Development Strategy, which targets raising the share of renewable energy to 20 per cent of the country's total electricity generation by 2030 while ensuring at least 15 per cent energy savings through effective demand management (*New Age*, [10 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt declares two new river ports in Sariakandi, Dhunat:** The government has declared two new river ports on the banks of the Jamuna River to improve inland waterway connectivity in the northern region, expand passenger services, and develop river port-based infrastructure. The Sariakandi River Port in Bogura district and the Dhunat River Port in the Bogura-Sirajganj region have been officially notified through separate gazette notifications. The information was disclosed in two separate notifications issued on 8 July by the Ministry of Shipping (*Daily Sun*, [10 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **No diplomatic deficiency in Hasina's repatriation efforts:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said on Thursday that she sees no deficiency in Bangladesh's diplomatic efforts to repatriate deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India, saying the process is continuing through established diplomatic channels. "I do not see any deficiency in our diplomatic efforts. The process is continuing," she told reporters at the foreign ministry in the afternoon. The state minister said that the repatriation process began during the interim government's tenure and resumed after the present government assumed office following the national election. "These processes take time," she said, noting that the repatriation of a convicted person under an extradition arrangement or other applicable legal framework must follow established protocols and international norms. The state minister said the issue is not solely the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the Ministry of Home Affairs is also actively involved in the process. **Responding to a question on whether India was cooperating or whether legal complications existed, Shama said any legal aspects of the matter would be examined by the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Home Affairs.** "From the perspective of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are carrying out the diplomatic process that is required of us. I do not see any shortcomings in that regard," she added (*Daily Sun*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hasina's remarks not relevant here:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam has said that remarks made by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina are "completely irrelevant" in the current context. **"A Bangladeshi court has convicted a person who has fled abroad after committing numerous wrongdoings, atrocities and crimes in Bangladesh. So whatever Sheikh Hasina says or does not say is not relevant here—absolutely not relevant,"** she told reporters on Thursday. The remarks came in response to a question about Sheikh Hasina's recent statement expressing her intention to return to Bangladesh within this year after fleeing

to New Delhi following the mass uprising that ousted her from power. Shama Obaed said the process of bringing Hasina back from India is ongoing. She noted that the International Crimes Tribunal has sentenced Hasina to death over charges of crimes against humanity related to the July uprising (*Prothom Alo*, [10 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Talks on Ganges water sharing treaty with India moving positively:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today said discussions with India on the renewal of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty are moving in a positive direction when she expressed optimism that New Delhi will recognise the treaty's importance. **"We believe the discussions are moving in a positive direction...bilateral negotiations on the treaty are continuing, although every aspect of the discussions cannot be made public at this stage," she said.** Talking to reporters at the foreign ministry here this afternoon, Shama said Bangladesh believes India understands the importance of the treaty and the significance of the Ganges waters for both countries. "I believe India will make the right decision taking that into consideration, and with the shared interest of ensuring that our bilateral relationship is not harmed in any way," she said. The state minister said the team and committee formed by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman are actively working with India on the issue, despite the limited time remaining before the treaty expires. Noting that around six months remain before the treaty expires, she said the decision on renewal ultimately rests with India (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Merit guides diplomatic reshuffles:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today said recent diplomatic reshuffles are being made on the basis of merit, efficiency, dedication and qualifications, dismissing suggestions that political affiliation determines government appointments. **"These reshuffles are made based on merit, efficiency, dedication and qualifications," she told reporters at the foreign ministry this afternoon. The state minister described changes in government ministries as a continuous administrative process and said such reshuffles are not unusual.** Shama Obaed dismissed suggestions that appointments are influenced by political affiliation, saying no one is being appointed because of membership in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) or any other political party. She said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, places the highest priority on performance and efficiency across all ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khalilur begins New York visit Friday ahead of UNGA presidency:** Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman is set to leave for New York later in the night, kicking off a 20-day tour which will include visits to the Philippines and the Maldives. On Thursday, the foreign ministry says the visit will include engagements ahead of his assumption of the presidency of the UN General Assembly. A ministry official says Khalilur will travel to Manila on Jul 23 to attend the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum, before his trip to the Maldives. He is scheduled to return to Bangladesh on or around Jul 29. **Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman is also set to leave for New York later in the night, kicking off a 20-day tour which will include visits to the Philippines and the Maldives** (*bdnews24.com*, [09 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama stresses manpower cooperation with Algeria:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam underscored the importance of expanding Bangladesh-Algeria cooperation in recruiting skilled and semi-skilled workers and welcomed efforts to establish a Joint Consultative Commission. She made the remarks when Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdelouahab Saidani paid a courtesy call on her at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here. During the meeting, the two sides reaffirmed the longstanding friendship and

growing partnership between Bangladesh and Algeria and discussed ways to further deepen bilateral cooperation across a range of sectors. **The state minister requested the Algerian envoy to enhance collaboration in the energy sector to help ensure Bangladesh's long-term energy security. The two sides also explored opportunities to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, shipbuilding and manpower.** Shama also stressed the need to strengthen people-to-people contacts and underscored the importance of exchanging high-level visits to further consolidate the partnership between the two brotherly nations. Ambassador Saidani reiterated Algeria's interest in expanding cooperation with Bangladesh in the fields of energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and shipbuilding (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Riyadh Air opens Dhaka ticket sales:** Riyadh Air today opened ticket sales for its daily direct flights between Dhaka and Riyadh, ahead of the launch of the service on August 7, marking a significant expansion of air connectivity between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. According to a press release issued by the airline, the new route will connect Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka with King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh using the airline's Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. **The daily service is expected to strengthen travel, trade and tourism links between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia while providing passengers with convenient onward connections to destinations across the Middle East and Europe through Riyadh Air's growing network and codeshare partnerships. The new route reflects its commitment to one of South Asia's fastest-growing aviation markets and supports the long-standing bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, according to the airline** (*BSS News*, [09 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **BGB says it thwarted attempt to push seven people into Bangladesh through Sylhet border:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) says it has foiled an alleged attempt by India's Border Security Force to push seven people into Bangladesh through the Sylhet frontier. The incident occurred at the Kalairag border around 4am on Thursday, said Lt Col Md Nazmul Haque, commander of Sylhet Battalion 48-BGB. Lt Col Nazmul said, **"An attempt was made to push seven people 20 to 25 yards towards Bangladesh from the zero line at the Kalairag border."** **He said they will bring the issue up in a flag meeting with the BSF.** Surveillance has been intensified along the border to prevent such attempted infiltrations, he added (*bdnews24.com*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Two Singapore deportees remanded over suspected militancy:** A Dhaka court on Thursday placed two Bangladeshi men deported from Singapore over suspected links to militant organizations on a three-day remand for further questioning. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Jewel Rana passed the order after hearing a police plea seeking a five-day remand for Sahedul Islam, 37, and Rishad Ali, 25. State prosecutor Shamsuddoha Sumon confirmed the matter. According to the remand petition, Airport Police Station Sub-Inspector Ashraful Alam produced the two before the court after showing them arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Police said that during primary interrogation, the two admitted to having links with various banned militant organizations while living in Singapore. **The petition also said investigators feared they could engage in militant activities in Bangladesh or**

elsewhere. Police told the court they needed additional time to determine whether the suspects had ties to any banned militant groups in Bangladesh, used electronic devices to facilitate prohibited activities, received financial support for militancy, maintained any local network, or had links with internationally banned organizations. **When asked by the court why Singapore police had arrested him, Rishad Ali said he had posted about a person named Farabi on Facebook in 2023. Asked to identify Farabi, Rishad said he was a leader of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh who had previously been imprisoned in Bangladesh but was later released.** According to police, Singapore authorities arrested the two on suspicion of militant involvement while they were living there and deported them to Bangladesh on Wednesday. They were handed over to immigration police at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport upon arrival (*Dhaka Tribune*, [09 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Minister says four Bangladeshi workers died after 'being forced into' Russia's military campaign:** At least four Bangladeshi workers have died after 30 were allegedly forced into Russia's military campaign against Ukraine following their recruitment for jobs there, the expatriates' welfare minister has told parliament. Responding to a question from Lalmonirhat-1 MP Md Hasan Rajib Prodhan, Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury said three recruiting agencies sent the workers to Russia on Apr 24 after obtaining manpower clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET). **The government acted after receiving reports that the workers were being compelled to undergo military preparation and were being sent from camps to the battlefield, the minister said** (*bdnews24.com*, [09 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Legal notice seeks 'crossfire' killing records:** A Supreme Court lawyer has served a legal notice seeking the disclosure of official information on people killed in so-called 'crossfire', 'gunfight', 'encounter' and similar operations conducted by law enforcement agencies during the Awami League government's tenure. The notice, served on Thursday by Supreme Court lawyer and National Lawyers Council Chairman Advocate SM Zulfikar Ali, also seeks details of the officers and personnel involved in the operations. It was sent to the home secretary, inspector general of police, director general of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), director general of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), asking them to take appropriate action within two weeks of receiving it. The lawyer said he would file a writ petition with the High Court if the authorities failed to respond within the stipulated timeframe (*Daily Sun*, [10 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Government invites fresh applications from 'deprived' retired, dismissed military officers:** The government has invited fresh applications from retired, removed, discharged and dismissed members of the armed forces who believe they were denied normal retirement or due promotions during their service. **The move comes a week after the government granted normal retirement or retrospective promotions to 150 military officers.** The Ministry of Defence has formed a seven-member committee, headed by a lieutenant general of the Bangladesh Army, to examine the applications. **The notification says applications may be submitted by officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force who, while serving between 2009 and Aug 4, 2024, were allegedly subjected to "deprivation, injustice and persecution" under the Awami League government, which was ousted following the July-August 2024 mass uprising** (*bdnews24.com*, [09 July 2026](#)).

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