

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

14 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Rohingya strategy committee formed under PM's leadership:** The government has formed an 11-member national committee, headed by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the speedy and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas and coordinate activities among relevant ministries and agencies. The Cabinet Division issued a notification on Sunday announcing the formation of the 'National Committee for Formulating a National Strategy on the Rohingya Issue'. **According to the notification, the committee will determine priorities on key issues relating to Rohingya repatriation and oversee coordination among relevant ministries, law enforcement agencies and intelligence organisations involved in the process. The prime minister will chair the committee, while home affairs minister, foreign affairs minister, the adviser to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and the adviser to the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Division will serve as members.** The principal staff officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division (AFD) has been designated as the committee's chief coordinator, while the director general of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) will serve as member secretary. Other members include the inspector general of police (IGP), the director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI), the director general of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the director general of the Bangladesh Coast Guard (*Prothom Alo*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bill passed introducing death penalty for cyber-enabled drug trade:** Parliament on Monday passed the Narcotics Control (Amendment) Bill, introducing the death penalty as the maximum punishment for illegal drug trading conducted through cyberspace and digital platforms. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed placed the bill in the House, where it was passed by a voice vote after lawmakers disposed of proposals for public opinion scrutiny, referral to the parliamentary standing committee and amendments. **The amendment incorporates a new provision recommended by the parliamentary committee to criminalise technology-based narcotics offences. Under the new law, any person who directly or indirectly uses cyberspace, digital devices, websites, social media, mobile apps, online platforms, electronic communication systems or any other digital medium to purchase, sell, supply, offer, advertise, facilitate, communicate or engage in any illegal activity involving narcotic drugs or psychoactive substances will be guilty of an offence. The law also makes it an offence to use or attempt to use digital payment systems, e-wallets, virtual assets or cryptocurrencies in connection with such illegal activities.** It further provides that the recovery of narcotic drugs from the accused will not be mandatory to prosecute offences committed through digital platforms. Those convicted may face imprisonment for any term or the maximum penalty of death, along with a fine of up to Tk 20 lakh (*Dhaka Tribune*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rizvi blames AL-era projects for flood deaths:** BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed has blamed the unplanned development and anti-nature infrastructure construction by the former "fascist" government for the severe deterioration of the flood situation and the resulting loss of lives across various regions of the country. **Speaking at a press**

conference on Monday at the BNP's central office in Naya Paltan, Rizvi alleged that a road was constructed through the middle of the haor solely to facilitate travel to the residence of former President Abdul Hamid. This infrastructure, he claimed, obstructed the natural flow of water and caused significant damage to the ecological balance. He further asserted that such projects were implemented for political reasons to provide contracting benefits to party activists. Rizvi also raised concerns regarding the Rampal power plant, alleging that the Sheikh Hasina government built it to please a "special country." He stated that this project has placed the environment and biodiversity of the Sundarbans under threat (*Times of Bangladesh*, [13 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **NCP MP questions if BNP seeks one-party rule thru reserved-seats:** National Citizen Party lawmaker Akhter Hossen on Monday asked if the Bangladesh Nationalist Party was trying to establish a one-party system by assigning its reserved-seat lawmakers to constituencies of opposition lawmakers. Raising the issue in the Jatiya Sangsad on a point of order, Akhter said that the government's clarification was needed over the authority and constitutional basis of such 'additional responsibilities' given to reserved-seat lawmakers. The NCP lawmaker said that the issue created concerns after BNP reserved-seat lawmaker Zeeba Amina Khan referred to having additional responsibilities while speaking in the Jatiya Sangsad about her visit to the Pirganj and Mithapukur constituencies in Rangpur. 'Before the Asr prayer recess, a reserved-seat government lawmaker said that she had additional responsibilities and referred to two constituencies in Rangpur. After she went there, BNP leaders were heard saying that the elected lawmakers for those constituencies were not the actual lawmakers and that the reserved-seat lawmaker was the one responsible for all activities,' Akhter said. He said that such claims had created confusion about the role of elected lawmakers and reserved-seat lawmakers (*New Age*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Constitutional reforms: Special JS committee formed, opposition walks out:** Uncertainty over constitutional reforms deepened yesterday as opposition MPs walked out in protest at the formation of a special parliamentary committee, insisting that the reforms be carried out through a council outlined in the July charter. The walkout marked one of the biggest flashpoints between the ruling BNP and the opposition since the 13th parliament was formed in February. Chief Whip Nurul Islam yesterday placed a proposal to form the 17-member special parliamentary committee -- 12 from the ruling alliance and five seats reserved for the opposition -- to recommend constitutional amendments before the House. He said the proposal was made with the consent of Prime Minister and Leader of the House Tarique Rahman. It was passed by voice vote after the opposition declined to nominate members and staged a walkout. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed will head the committee. While tabling the proposal, the chief whip said the government remained committed to implementing the July charter. At that time, Leader of the Opposition and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman reiterated that his party rejected the committee in principle. After the opposition walked out, Salahuddin said constitutional reform could only be implemented through parliament. He argued that the second oath taken by opposition MPs as members of the proposed reform council was unconstitutional and therefore invalid (*The Daily Star*, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Constitution amendment committee formed amid opposition boycott:** A special parliamentary committee has been formed to amend the Constitution in line with the July National Charter and recent High Court directives, triggering a walkout by the opposition led by Jamaat-e-Islami. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has been appointed chairman of the 17-member

committee, but five reserved seats for opposition members have been left vacant after the opposition refused to nominate representatives. The opposition walked out of parliament on Monday night, alleging that the committee was formed without considering public opinion and without their participation. **Afterwards, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed strongly responded to Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman's remarks regarding lawmakers taking two oaths after the election.** The controversy intensified after Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman raised objections over the formation of the committee and defended the validity of lawmakers taking two separate oaths — one as MPs and another as members of the Constitution Reform Council. The proposal to form the committee was placed by Chief Whip Md Nurul Islam Moni during a parliamentary session chaired by Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal. The committee includes Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed as chairman and 11 other members, while five opposition seats remain vacant (*Times of Bangladesh*, [14 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **CID arrests Ram idol organiser in Gaibandha over 'money laundering':** Police detectives have arrested Haridas Chandra, alias Tarani Das, the organiser behind a Ram idol construction project in Gaibandha's Palashbari, in a money laundering case. Haridas is the son of Gopinath Chandra Das from the village. Palashbari Police chief Sarwar Alam Khan said on Monday that CID officers arrested Haridas in a case filed with Uttara West Police Station in Dhaka. "He has been taken to the capital," he said. Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch chief Shafiqul Islam said Haridas was arrested following the CID's requisition. The agency said it conducted a preliminary investigation after allegations of involvement in government job-related fraud, transfers, Hundi transactions and organised crime surfaced against him (*bdnews24.com*, [13 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shadik Kayem steps down from Shibir post to contest DSCC mayoral election:** Abu Shadik Kayem, vice-president of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu), announced that he has formally stepped down from his position of central international affairs secretary of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir. **Shadik left Shibir as he prepares to contest the Dhaka South City Corporation mayoral election as a candidate of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.** Under the party's constitution, members of the student wing are not eligible to contest such elections. In a Facebook post, Shadik wrote: "Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, my beloved organisation! A long golden chapter has come to an end. As part of the organisation's normal process, my formal leave from Islami Chhatra Shibir became effective today." On May 1, Jamaat-e-Islami announced Shadik as its mayoral candidate at a conference of thana and divisional-level leaders held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) in Dhaka. Following the announcement, Shibir clarified that members cannot contest elections while remaining in the student organisation (*The Daily Star*, [13 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Shipping Minister says Matarbari port to transform Bangladesh's maritime trade:** Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam on Monday said the under-construction Matarbari Deep Seaport in Cox's Bazar is expected to transform the country's maritime trade by enabling large mother vessels to call directly at a Bangladeshi port, significantly reducing dependence on foreign transshipment ports. Replying to a question from Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami MP Md Nurul Islam (Chapainawabganj-3) in parliament, he said the construction of the deep

seaport is progressing with the goal of commencing operations by 2029. The minister said the port will feature a modern container terminal and a navigational channel with a depth of about 16 metres. Once operational, the port will be capable of accommodating container vessels with a capacity of around 8,200 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) or cargo ships of up to 100,000 deadweight tonnes (DWTs), nearly four times larger than the vessels currently handled at Chattogram Port. **The minister said the project will substantially reduce Bangladesh's dependence on transshipment hubs such as Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang, cutting both shipping time and logistics costs associated with transshipment.** He said the Matarbari Deep Seaport will open up new opportunities for the country's import and export trade by making cargo transportation and handling faster, more efficient and cost effective, while enhancing Bangladesh's competitiveness in international trade (*Dhaka Tribune*, [13 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **IMF LOAN NEGOTIATION: Govt plans no fresh power price hike:** The government has no immediate plan to raise power prices, officials said on Monday. They made the remarks after the International Monetary Fund's fact-finding mission inquired on the day whether the government had any plans for further electricity price adjustments to reduce overall subsidies. The multilateral lender made the inquiry at a meeting with officials of the Power Division, Energy Division and Finance Division at the secretariat in the capital Dhaka in the morning. **The IMF fact-finding mission is an advance team ahead of the next discussion on the proposed new loan programme worth \$4–5 billion. Finance and planning minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, who held a meeting with the IMF mission in the afternoon, said that the government's strategy regarding reforms in the areas of subsidies, revenue and banking would be implemented gradually and logically.** The IMF has been urging successive governments to rationalise subsidies. Talking to reporters, the finance minister said that no specific decision had yet been made on subsidies (*New Age*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bandar Rakkha Committee opposes NCT, CCT lease:** The Bandar Rakkha Committee Chattogram on Monday demanded an immediate halt to the process of leasing out the New Mooring Container Terminal and the Chittagong Container Terminal at Chattogram port. In a statement, the organisation said that the move to lease out the two strategically important terminals had ignored public opinion and was alarming. Any such decision should be taken only after discussions in parliament, consultations with experts and due consideration of public opinion, it added. The committee said that reliable sources had confirmed that the leasing process for the NCT and the CCT was being accelerated. It added that the chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority and other senior officials had been called to Dhaka in connection with the process. **In the statement, committee leaders said that the decision to lease out the NCT had been taken during the tenure of the Awami League government. The interim government had also attempted to proceed with the initiative but had suspended it in the face of nationwide protests and public resistance. The current elected government, without giving due importance to public opinion, appeared to be rapidly advancing the process of leasing out not just the NCT but also the CCT, they alleged** (*New Age*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Heavy rains push Kaptai hydel generation to 206 MW:** Electricity generation at the Karnaphuli Hydroelectric Power Station has increased to 206 megawatts (MW) as the water level in Kaptai Lake rose due to incessant rainfall and runoff from upstream hilly areas. **"The water level of Kaptai Lake, which had remained below 100 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) until Sunday, crossed the 100 feet mark this morning, leading to a significant increase in power generation from the plant's five units,"** Karnaphuli Hydroelectric Power Station Manager Engineer Mahmud Hasan told BSS. Officials said all five units could not be operated simultaneously over

the past three months due to inadequate water levels in the lake. The power generation would increase further if rainfall continues and the lake's water level rises further, they expressed hope (BSS News, [13 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Titumir seeks stronger global support to achieve SDGs:** Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, prime minister's adviser on the ministries of Finance and Planning, today called for stronger international solidarity, increased concessional financing and reforms to the global financial architecture to help the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure smooth graduation from the LDC category. Speaking on behalf of the Group of LDCs at the General Debate of the High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Titumir reaffirmed the group's unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA). **He said that progress towards the SDGs remains seriously off track, with LDCs facing heightened challenges from climate change, rising debt burdens, shrinking fiscal space, declining Official Development Assistance (ODA), widening digital divides and limited access to affordable finance.** According to the adviser, these challenges are undermining implementation of the 2030 Agenda and jeopardising the DPoA's objective of enabling more LDCs to achieve sustainable and irreversible graduation by 2031. Titumir said 14 LDCs are currently at different stages of the graduation process and continue to require sustained international support. **Referring to Bangladesh and Nepal, he noted that both countries have sought a three-year extension of their preparatory period until November 2029 due to unprecedented political, macroeconomic, environmental and external shocks** (BSS News, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **China marks CPC anniversary in Dhaka:** The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka marked the 105th anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) with a symposium, highlighting stronger inter-party cooperation and the growing Bangladesh-China partnership. Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen delivered the keynote address at the event elaborating on the important speech delivered by CPC General Secretary Xi Jinping on the occasion of the party's 105th anniversary, said a Chinese embassy's press release here. **The envoy said that during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's recent visit to China, the CPC and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), giving fresh momentum to inter-party exchanges and cooperation. The ambassador said the CPC stands ready to work with all friendly political parties in Bangladesh to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. He also expressed the CPC's willingness to deepen exchanges on governance and expand practical cooperation in various sectors to bring greater benefits to the peoples of both countries.** The participants congratulated the CPC on its 105th anniversary and expressed hope that Bangladesh and China would continue working together to advance the building of a China-Bangladesh community with a shared future in the new era (BSS News, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UAE expresses solidarity with Bangladesh, offers condolences for flood victims:** The United Arab Emirates has expressed its solidarity with Bangladesh over the victims of floods caused by heavy rainfall, which resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries, as well as significant damage. **In a statement, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) conveyed the country's sincere**

condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Bangladesh over this tragedy, as well as its wishes for a speedy recovery for all the injured, Khaleej Times reports (*bdnews24.com*, [13 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Maldives president voices solidarity with flood-hit Bangladesh:** Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has expressed condolences over the death and destruction caused by the ongoing floods and landslides in Bangladesh. In a message posted on his verified Facebook page on Sunday night, Muizzu voiced concern over the situation. **"On behalf of the Government and the people of the Maldives, I extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to His Excellency Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, the Government, and the people of Bangladesh as they confront the severe impacts of the ongoing monsoon floods and landslides,"** he wrote. **"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have tragically lost their loved ones and with all those whose livelihoods have been disrupted."** **"The Maldives stands firmly in solidarity with Bangladesh during this challenging period and wishes safety, strength, and a swift recovery to all affected communities,"** he added (*bdnews24.com*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hasina must face jail upon surrender:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said deposed former prime minister Sheikh Hasina would have to be sent to jail upon surrender in accordance with the law, while diplomatic efforts to secure her return to Bangladesh are continuing. **"If she surrenders, steps will be taken in accordance with the existing law. She will have to go to jail. The law will take its own course,"** she told reporters at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. The state minister said the government would proceed strictly in accordance with the existing legal framework if Sheikh Hasina surrenders. Shama said Sheikh Hasina has already been convicted and, therefore, the government has nothing to consider regarding the statements of a convicted person. **"Wherever Sheikh Hasina surrenders, whether in India or Bangladesh, she will have to go to jail first. The government has nothing to consider regarding the statements of a convicted individual,"** she said. Shama said the government had already requested India to hand over Sheikh Hasina under the existing extradition treaty and that diplomatic efforts to facilitate her return were continuing. She said the legal process would determine the next course of action once Sheikh Hasina returns to Bangladesh (*Prothom Alo*, [13 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks Saudi support to cut Hajj travel costs:** Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam on Monday sought Saudi Arabia's cooperation in reducing the overall cost of Hajj for Bangladeshi pilgrims by lowering taxes and charges on Hajj air travel. She came up with the request during a courtesy call by Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah ibn Dhafer ibn Ubayya, on Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam and State Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat at the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism at the Bangladesh Secretariat. **She said such a move would significantly ease the financial burden on thousands of Bangladeshi pilgrims every year. In response, the Saudi envoy assured that the matter would receive positive consideration and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to extending all possible cooperation.** State Minister Rashiduzzaman Millat also raised concerns over the increased accommodation costs faced by Bangladeshi pilgrims following the discontinuation of Category D accommodation. He urged the Saudi authorities to consider reinstating the category, saying its withdrawal had substantially increased lodging expenses for pilgrims. The Saudi Ambassador reiterated his government's commitment to improving services for Bangladeshi pilgrims while making Hajj more affordable (*Dhaka Tribune*, [13 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **PM says People have full confidence in Bangladesh Army:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today, Monday said that the people have full confidence in the Bangladesh Army, which is a symbol of the country's independence and sovereignty. **"The Army has repeatedly set shining examples of professionalism, courage and patriotism in dealing with national crises, ensuring the country's security and maintaining law and order," he said.** The Prime Minister made the remarks while visiting the Bangladesh Army's Summer Exercise in the Purba Rahmatpur area of Babuganj Upazila. During the visit, Tarique Rahman interacted with Army personnel. The Prime Minister said the discipline, efficiency, sacrifice and sense of duty of the army personnel have earned the army a place of special esteem in the hearts of the people. **Expressing hope that the Bangladesh Army would earn greater reputation, dignity and professional recognition across the world beyond the country's borders in the future, he said, "The government will provide all necessary support to enhance the capability, modernisation and reputation of the Army."** The Prime Minister later walked through the vast jungle to observe various training activities and wartime preparedness exercises of the Army personnel. **During the exercise, he observed the positioning, movement and various combat-oriented activities of the soldiers inside the rugged and dense jungle. At that time, the Army officers briefed the Prime Minister on different aspects of the exercise and the strategic preparedness of the troops** (*Prothom Alo*, [13 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Police say 20,000 'linked to drugs' detained as special drive tops 33,000 arrests:** Police say they have arrested 32,908 people in a nationwide "special" operation launched two and a half months ago, with more than 20,000 of them detained in drug-related cases. In a statement on Monday, Police Headquarters said the drive began on May 1 to strengthen law and order. Regular police operations continued alongside the campaign. Police said another 83,817 people named in different criminal cases were arrested during the same period in separate operations (*bdnbews24.com*, [13 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh's iconic protest graffiti appears in Sikkim, triggering police investigation:** For almost a decade, Bangladesh's most influential street artist has remained a mystery. **The creator behind the iconic "Subodh" murals has never revealed an identity, spoken publicly or granted an interview. Yet the anonymous artist known only as HOBEKI has become one of Bangladesh's most recognisable voices of political dissent, making anonymity an integral part of the artist's identity.** Now, that mystery appears to have crossed a border. According to The Federal, an Indian digital news media outlet, a mural carrying HOBEKI's unmistakable signature has surfaced in India's northeastern state of Sikkim, prompting a police investigation and sparking debate over whether the elusive Bangladeshi artist -- or someone inspired by the artist's work -- has brought Bangladesh's most enduring protest symbol onto Indian soil. **The artwork was recently discovered on the Majitar Nala Bridge along the Gangtok-Rangpo Road. The Gangtok-Rangpo Road serves as Sikkim's main connection with the rest of India and feeds directly into the Siliguri Corridor -- the narrow stretch of land linking India's northeastern states with the mainland.** According to the publication, Sikkim police have launched an investigation to determine who painted the mural and whether it has any direct connection to HOBEKI. Investigators reportedly believe the artwork may have been created by

a Bangladeshi student enrolled at a private university in Sikkim who has since returned home during the university vacation. (bdnews24.com, [14 July 2026](#)).



[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views or interpretations expressed by various Bangladeshi commentators we make available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Bangladesh Watch (DBW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the existing thought process in Bangladesh having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Bangladesh in a more effective manner. DBW is curated by Dr. Ankita Sanyal]