

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

15 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Hasina welcome to bring 'best lawyer in world' for ICT trial, says Advisor Zahed:** Prime Minister's Information Advisor Zahed Ur Rahman has said Sheikh Hasina is free to bring the "best lawyer in the world" to defend her at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), should she return to face trial. Speaking at the weekly briefing on government activities at the Press Information Department (PID) conference room in the Secretariat on Tuesday, he was asked how the government viewed her potential return. "Since we're making efforts for her to come, if she does come, we'll welcome her. **From the start, we've been saying we'll welcome her, and some people take that one line out of context to claim we're rolling out the red carpet for her.**" "We've said before, and I'll say it again, we want to ensure justice for her. She's been sentenced to death. If she comes, if we can bring her back through extradition, that's exactly what we're trying to do," he said. He said if Hasina returns from India through bilateral contact between the two governments, that would be fine. "She'll face the case. There's scope now to bring in foreign lawyers for the case at the ICT. Let her bring the best lawyer in the world. Let them try to defend her." "Observers can be present there, video cameras can be kept there, the ICT law has been made this modern during the interim period, so the entire process will run through a transparent trial." "What the people of this country want is for the death sentence over the crimes she's committed to stand. People also want to see that death sentence carried out," he added. The government does not feel any pressure following the announcement by ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina that she intends to return to Bangladesh (*bdnews24.com*, [14 July 2026](#); *Times of Bangladesh*, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Broiler Chicken Party Facebook page emerges amid protests over minister's alleged remark:** A Facebook page calling itself the Broiler Chicken Party has emerged amid student protests demanding the resignation of Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon, following his alleged remark in which he referred to HSC candidates as "farm chickens". **The page has no formal organisational structure and exists only on Facebook. However, some social media users have compared it with India's satirical "Cockroach Janata Party", which gained widespread attention earlier this year. Students across Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh have been demonstrating since Tuesday morning against the decision to continue HSC examinations despite heavy rainfall and flooding in several districts.** Throughout the day, the Broiler Chicken Party page shared updates, photos and videos of the protests. Created shortly after midnight on Monday under Facebook's personal blog category, the page had around 1,500 followers by 5:30pm on Tuesday. That number had exceeded 1,800 by 6pm (*bdnews24.com*, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Education Minister regrets controversial remarks on HSC students:** Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon has formally expressed regret for his recent comments over HSC exams and students. "Many have criticised my recent remarks. **My intention was not to demean or hurt anyone. Still, if anyone feels hurt, I simply regret it,**" he said during a parliament session around 7:30pm on Tuesday. Ehsanul Hoque Milon made the statement amid ongoing the countrywide demonstrations students are staging to press home several

demands including the minister's swift resignation, and the suspension of HSC and equivalent exams owing to harsh weather. **The students have been calling on the Education Ministry to suspend the exams amid inclement weather patterns, including persistent rainfall, waterlogging and flash floods, in different parts of the country. Despite the calls, the ministry went ahead with the exams on Monday, causing misery for the students and the guardians, the students have alleged.** ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon recently told a student over the phone that the students are "farm chickens," which catch cold in a "little rain." The Whatsapp voice conversation was audio recorded on another phone, and the record recently went viral in the social media, sparking an uproar against the minister. Amid the ongoing protests against the minister, and the current exam schedule, the students tried to breach the Parliament premises on Tuesday evening, while a session was ongoing. Police charged at the students with batons to disperse them, leading to a brief chase and counter-chase. Many students were injured in the clash before they were driven away from the Parliament area (*Daily Sun*, [14 July 2026](#); *bdnews24.com*, [14 July 2026](#); *New Age*, [14 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Students announce long march to edn ministry for today:** Students have announced a 'long march to the education ministry' on Wednesday afternoon to press their demand for the resignation of education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon. Making the announcement late at night, students said they would gather in the Science Lab area at around 3:00pm for the march. The announcement followed day-long, country-wide protests against the government's decision to hold the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations amid severe flooding and heavy rain. **Apart from the education minister's resignation, the protesting students demanded the suspension of the HSC examinations until weather conditions fully improve, alongside re-examinations for candidates who missed the July 13 exams due to the adverse weather** (*New Age*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Indictment hearing against Hasina, 285 others postponed to Sept 30:** The Dhaka 3rd Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court on Tuesday adjourned till September 30 the hearing on charge framing in a sedition case filed against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 285 others. Judge Moin Uddin Chowdhury of the court passed the order as the prosecution took part in the hearing on the matter. The defence, however, argued for discharging the accused and subsequently pleaded for time to complete their hearing. Allowing the defence plea, the court adjourned the hearing till September 30. **The case was filed over allegations of participating in anti-state activities and conspiring to overthrow the interim government through a virtual meeting of the 'Joy Bangla Brigade' on Zoom** (*New Age*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **13 AL men arrested from procession in Savar:** The police arrested 13 leaders and activists of the Awami League, which faces a ban on its activities, during a procession on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar on Tuesday. **According to police, about 40 leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies, carrying banners and sticks, brought out a procession in the Bhanga Bridge area on the highway at about 1:00pm when a routine police patrol spotted them. Police chased the group and managed to arrest 13 of them, while others escaped by swimming across a nearby water body, police said** (*New Age*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt pushes ahead with constitutional amendment; opposition stands firm:** The government is moving ahead with plans to amend the Constitution through a special parliamentary committee, rejecting calls to establish a Constitutional Reform Council. It says the necessary changes should be made within the framework of the existing Constitution. The committee will consult political parties and other stakeholders before

submitting recommendations, which will form the basis of the proposed 18th amendment of constitutional of Bangladesh bill. The opposition, meanwhile, walked out of Parliament after rejecting the committee and is now preparing its next political steps. It plans to continue opposing the committee inside Parliament while stepping up street protests demanding the creation of a Constitution Reform Council and the implementation of the July National Charter and the referendum verdict. Opposition leaders say they remain firm on this demand. Opposition leaders say their resistance will not be limited to Parliament. **Alongside continuing to oppose the special committee in the legislature, they plan to intensify protests and political activities across the country.** Under the current Constitution, Parliament can amend the Constitution with a two-thirds majority vote. The government intends to follow that constitutional process by introducing an amendment bill based on the recommendations of the special committee. However, the July National Charter Implementation Order states that a Constitution Reform Council made up of elected representatives should be established to implement the Constitution-related proposals (*Prothom Alo*, [15 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Probe into AL as party underway:** Opposition MPs yesterday demanded that the Awami League be tried as a political party in an international crimes tribunal, accusing it of committing mass killings during the July uprising, as well as destroying democratic institutions and looting national resources during its tenure. In response, cabinet members said investigations into the Awami League as an organisation have already begun. They further noted that under Bangladesh's laws, there is no provision for a convicted person to surrender, adding that such criminals would be arrested immediately upon entering the country. The matter arose during a parliamentary discussion on the trial for killings committed in the July uprising, following a notice under Rule 68 of the Rules of Procedure submitted by NCP lawmaker Akhter Hossen (*The Daily Star*, [15 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **FY27 energy outlook appears largely bleak:** The energy outlook for the current fiscal year appears largely bleak as power and gas supplies are not expected to increase significantly despite higher allocations for the sectors, energy experts say. Power sector capacity charges will increase by over Tk 4000 crore, and costly gas imports will continue to bleed the economy. Besides, dwindling domestic gas, resource shortages and adverse weather will pose stiff challenges for the newly elected Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government as it seeks to manage a fragile energy sector inherited largely from the previous Awami League regime, energy experts and economists said, assessing the overall FY27 energy outlook. They also said an insufficient gas supply to industries and manufacturing units would hurt production and create supply-side constraints, undermining the FY27 inflation target of 7.5 per cent. Shamsul Alam, energy adviser, Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said power supply from the country's first nuclear power plant is expected by early next calendar year, but that will not be sufficient to meet the 10 per cent higher demand for electricity (*New Age*, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt to generate 42.5MW electricity from Dhaka waste by 2028:** The government has taken an initiative to generate 42.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity by August 2028 by processing around 3,000 tonnes of waste produced daily in Dhaka, Prime Minister's Adviser on Information and Broadcasting Zahed Ur Rahman said on Tuesday. Zahed revealed this information while talking at a press briefing on the progress of various activities held at the Press Information Department (PID) conference room. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman recently chaired a meeting on two waste-to-energy projects involving Aminbazar under Dhaka

North City Corporation (DNCC) and Matuail under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) on Sunday, held at the secretariat. China's CMEC Group will invest in the construction of a waste-to-energy power plant at Aminbazar. **The plant will process around 3,000 tonnes of municipal waste every day to produce 42.5MW of electricity, with a target of supplying power to the national grid by August 2028, he said. The facility is expected to continue generating electricity for 25 years, he added** (*Daily Sun*, [14 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shipping Minister says Matarbari Deep Sea Port to open in 2029:** Matarbari Deep Sea Port in Cox's Bazar is expected to become operational by 2029, enabling the country to receive large container and cargo vessels directly for the first time, Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam has said. The minister disclosed the information in response to a written question from Md Nurul Islam, MP for Chapainawabganj-3, during the parliamentary question-and-answer session on Monday (13 July). Minister Rabiul Alam said the port would accommodate container ships of up to 8,200 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and cargo vessels of around 100,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT). He noted that Bangladesh's existing seaports lack sufficient depth to handle large mother vessels, forcing most import and export cargo to be transhipped through regional ports such as Singapore, Colombo and Malaysian ports before reaching the country on feeder vessels. This increases both costs and transit times. **Rabiul Alam added that the government is also pursuing direct shipping links with Europe, the United States and the Middle East, while expanding Chattogram Port through the Bay Terminal and Patenga Container Terminal projects and further digitalising port operations** (*Daily Sun*, [14 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **India says Sheikh Hasina's extradition will be resolved in accordance with law:** As speculation grows over former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's return to Bangladesh, India says its position on the issue remains unchanged. In a briefing held in New Delhi today, Tuesday, a journalist asked about India's stance regarding Sheikh Hasina's interview. The journalist also inquired whether the Indian government has discussed her safe return with the Bangladesh government. India's Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal did not directly answer this question. **However, he has stated that any extradition is a legal matter and will be resolved through the legal process.** Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam told reporters on Jul 12 that Hasina will not have the opportunity to surrender if she is returned from India under the extradition treaty. During the briefing, there was also a question regarding concerns over the potential suspension of some Indian development projects in Bangladesh. **A journalist asked whether the 11 announced projects are being suspended in the changing circumstances. In response to this question, Randhir Jaiswal stated that developmental cooperation projects are undertaken based on mutual discussions and that continuity will be maintained** (*Prothom Alo*, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **France expects reciprocity to deepen Bangladesh partnership, envoy:** French Ambassador to Bangladesh Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet today said France expects a level playing field and genuine reciprocity from Bangladesh to further strengthen bilateral relations, expressing hope that Dhaka would demonstrate its commitment to expanding the partnership in a concrete manner. **"As reliable partners, we naturally expect to benefit from a level playing field in order to continue and develop our relationship based on genuine reciprocity. We expect Bangladesh**

to also demonstrate its interest in partnering in a concrete way," he said. The Ambassador was addressing a reception hosted by the French Embassy at its premises in Dhaka to celebrate Bastille Day, the National Day of France. Highlighting existing cooperation, the ambassador said France is actively engaged in Bangladesh through cultural exchanges, development cooperation and business partnerships. **French companies are also expanding their presence in Bangladesh in sectors including fashion, aerospace, civil aviation, water management and infrastructure, while France is keen to further increase its commercial engagement, he added** (BSS News, [14 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia hold meeting to strengthen transport, logistics cooperation:** Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia today held high-level bilateral meetings to further expand cooperation in the transport, logistics and port development sectors. The meeting was held between Bangladesh's Minister for Road Transport and Bridges, Railways and Shipping, Sheikh Robiul Alam, and a high-level Saudi delegation led by Vice Minister for Transport and Logistics Dr. Rumaih bin Mohammed Al-Rumaih at the secretariat here. **The two sides discussed port infrastructure development, maritime transport, modernization of logistics systems, expansion of investment opportunities, exchange of skills and technology, and various issues of mutual interest, said a PID handout.** The Shipping Minister highlighted the ongoing development activities in Bangladesh's maritime sector, the increased capacity of Chattogram and Mongla ports, various mega projects including the Bay Terminal, and the prospects for foreign investment. **He invited Saudi investors to invest in Bangladesh's port and logistics sectors** (BSS News, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Zahid for stronger Islamic Ummah cooperation:** Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Abu Zafar Md Zahid Hossain, MP has called for strengthening mutual cooperation among the Islamic Ummah to build an inclusive humanitarian society through women's advancement. He made the call yesterday while addressing the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Islamabad, Pakistan, said PID release. Ministerial representatives from the OIC member states attended the conference held on July 12-13. The minister said women's advancement is not only a social goal but also a strategic issue for the collective prosperity of the Muslim Ummah, and OIC has always remained at the forefront of initiatives taken for women's empowerment. He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, the present government has adopted women's rights as one of the key pillars of its national reform agenda, which is directly aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (BSS News, [14 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US-Bangla to resume Dhaka-Kathmandu flights:** US-Bangla Airlines is set to resume scheduled flights on the Dhaka-Kathmandu route from September, ending an eight-year suspension of its services on the sector. Initially, the private carrier plans to operate four flights a week using Boeing 737-800 aircraft. Confirming the development, US-Bangla Airlines General Manager (Public Relations) Kamrul Islam said preparations for launching the service are in the final stage, and a formal announcement will be made soon. **The airline's return to the Dhaka-Kathmandu route after nearly eight years is expected to increase competition in air travel between Bangladesh and Nepal, as only a limited number of airlines currently operate flights on the route.** US-Bangla suspended operations on the Dhaka-Kathmandu route after the crash of Flight BS-211 at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on March 12, 2018. The move to restart flights to Kathmandu is being seen as part of US-Bangla Airlines' broader strategy to expand its international network. It follows the airline's recent plans to increase its fleet and launch new international destinations, marking another significant step in its expansion strategy (Dhaka Tribune, [14 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Gun violence, killings in Chattogram leave police struggling to contain criminal gangs:** A group of armed men storming a busy marketplace in broad daylight to gun down a man, or launching an armed attack on a business after failing to receive extortion money within a set deadline—such scenes may seem straight out of an action film. Yet incidents like these have become increasingly common in Chattogram. Police claim that those involved in the recent killings and gun violence are all followers of Sajjad Ali Khan, better known as Boro Sajjad, a fugitive criminal believed to be operating from abroad. Despite the group's increasingly brazen activities over a prolonged period, law enforcement has been unable to rein them in. As a result, residents of several areas—including Chandgaon, Bakalia and Bayezid in the city, as well as Hathazari, Raozan and Rangunia upazilas—are living in fear. According to police, Sajjad has been directing murders and extortion operations in Chattogram while staying overseas. **He has allegedly built an armed network of more than 50 active members equipped with sophisticated weapons. Police say Sajjad's associates became more active after 5 August 2024.** On 29 August 2024, two young men—Md Anis and Masud Qaiser—were shot dead in public in the Anannya Residential Area of Bayezid Bostami and nearby Quaish, on the border with Hathazari (*Prothom Alo*, [14 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **27 members of Sundarbans robber gang surrender:** Twenty-seven members of the notorious Sundarbans-based robber gang 'Chhota Jahangir Bahini', including its leader Jahangir Sheikh, surrendered to the Bangladesh Coast Guard on Monday, handing over a large cache of firearms and ammunition. The surrender took place around 5pm near Charputija Canal in the Sundarbans under Mongla upazila of Bagerhat, the Coast Guard said on Tuesday. **The group deposited three foreign-made firearms, one eight-shooter gun, one four-shooter gun, five locally made single-barrel guns, 15 pipe guns, two Chinese-made pipe guns, 340 rounds of live ammunition and 55 rounds of blank ammunition.** Briefing reporters on Tuesday, Coast Guard Mongla West Zone Commander Captain Mohammad Mesbaul Islam said, the gang had long been involved in kidnapping fishermen and forest workers in the Sundarbans and extorting ransom from their families (*Daily Sun*, [15 July 2026](#)).

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