

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

16 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Cabinet committee reviews draft Cyber Security (Amendment) Act 2026:** A meeting of the cabinet committee formed to review and finalise the draft of the “Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026” was held at the conference room of the Posts and Telecommunications Division at the Secretariat. The meeting, chaired by Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology and Science and Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam, MP, who is the convener of the committee, held detailed discussions on various provisions of the draft Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026, said a PID release. **The meeting discussed necessary amendments and recommendations aimed at addressing the rapid changes in information technology, strengthening cyber security, protecting citizens' rights and ensuring a secure environment for digital services. Following the discussion, various recommendations were made to make the draft law more up-to-date, effective and practical.** The committee also decided to hold another meeting to finalise the draft law after incorporating the recommendations (*BSS News*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Legitimate print and electronic media urged to strictly comply with regulatory guidelines:** The government has called upon the country’s all print and electronic media organizations to remain vigilant and avoid using anonymous, fake, or unregistered platforms as sources of news as inaccurate information, misinformation and false reports containing AI-generated images and contents are creating confusion among the public. “It has been observed that some government-registered and declaration-approved media outlets have recently published inaccurate information, misinformation and false reports containing artificial intelligence (AI)-generated images and misleading contents, causing confusion among the public,” said the Press Information Department (PID) in a special notice. Such practices are entirely contrary to the fundamental principles of the objective journalism, it said. The government has urged all media organizations including newspapers, television channels, radio stations, online news portals, online editions of daily newspapers and IP television services to strictly adhere to the terms and conditions of their signed declarations and registration policies. **Failure to comply with these responsibilities may compel the government to take action against the concerned media outlets under the existing laws and regulations, said the PID** (*BSS News*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Int’l rights bodies call for release of detained journalists:** Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, along with several other international rights bodies, in a statement on Wednesday called for the immediate release of detained journalists Farzana Rupa, Shakil Ahmed, Mozammel Babu and Shyamal Dutta. **Alleging that the charges brought against them for their journalistic work were politically motivated, the joint statement called on the government to drop the accusations and also end the practice of case-stacking and mass First Information Reports against journalists and many others across Bangladesh.** The other signatories of the statement are rights bodies— ARTICLE 19; CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation; and Committee to Protect Journalists. The statement also urged the government to ensure and uphold human rights of every citizen and the right to freedom of

expression as well as media freedom. 'Taking these steps would be consistent with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's manifesto commitment to end the persecution of journalists. We call on the Government of Bangladesh to translate that commitment into concrete action, beginning with the cases described above,' said the statement. It further said that as Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal deepened its investigation against detained journalists Farzana Rupa and Mozammel Babu in relation to allegations arising from their broadcast coverage of the May 2013 Shapla Chattar massacre, 'we—the undersigned international press freedom and human rights organisations—call on the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that journalists do not face criminal charges, particularly for crimes against humanity, for their reporting' (*New Age*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Malaysia labour market: Rights activists call for ensuring transparency:** The Trade Union–Civil Society Action Alliance (TUCSAA) in a statement on Tuesday expresses deep concern over recent developments surrounding Bangladesh's efforts to reopen the Malaysian labour market, says a press release. While restoring employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers is an urgent national priority, recent media reports raise important questions about whether the governance failures that led to the previous market closure have truly been addressed. Malaysia remains one of the most important overseas employment destinations for Bangladeshi workers. Yet the previous recruitment system was plagued by allegations of syndication, limited market access, excessive migration costs, and unequal opportunities for recruiting agencies. The suspension of recruitment left thousands of aspiring migrants in uncertainty and exposed serious weaknesses in Bangladesh's migration governance. Many Bangladeshi workers also faced unpaid wages, passport confiscation, contract substitution, poor accommodation, and limited access to justice. These experiences highlight the urgent need for a recruitment system that protects workers not only before departure but throughout the migration cycle. **TUCSAA calls on the Government to ensure that the reopening of the Malaysian labour market is guided by transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, and the best interests of migrant workers.** The success of this process should not be measured only by the number of workers deployed, but by the fairness, protection, and dignity they receive (*Prothom Alo*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **New anti-trafficking law a 'milestone' in crime fight, home minister says:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has called Bangladesh's new anti-trafficking law a "significant milestone." He expressed confidence it will play a "strict and highly effective" role in curbing human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The minister shared this outlook as chief guest at a national awareness session on the "Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act, 2026", held at a Dhaka hotel on Wednesday. **"To keep pace with the constantly evolving tactics of criminal networks, we've upgraded our legal and institutional capacity to international standards," he said. "This law will play an effective role in curbing the misuse of digital platforms and technology by organised criminal networks."** Salahuddin said the government remained committed to combating the two transnational crimes through "stronger legislation, effective institutional coordination and a victim-centred criminal justice system". Its successful implementation would require "close cooperation" among government agencies, law enforcers, the judiciary, development partners and civil society, he added (*bdnews24.com*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **PM vows value-based governance, calls for national unity:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman pledged Wednesday to build a people-centered, accountable, and value-based state at Sangsad

Bhaban, Dhaka, saying his government is committed to restoring moral values and strengthening education and healthcare. He was delivering his winding-up speech at the conclusion of the second budget session of the 13th National Parliament. **The PM called for national unity, saying differences of opinion in politics should never turn into enmity or vengeance.** He said: "The government wants to establish a Bangladesh where the state remains accountable to the people, the economy is inclusive, and every citizen enjoys security, dignity, and opportunities." He thanked lawmakers from both treasury and opposition benches for their participation, reiterating that political disagreement is natural in a parliamentary democracy but should never lead to hostility. He said: "Before I conclude, I want to say one thing. In Parliament, as is the practice across the world, there will naturally be differences of opinion. But there must never be hostility. Instead of vengeance and retaliation, there must be fairness and justice." He added: "As the Leader of the Opposition has rightly emphasized, I also want to stress that Bangladesh must never again allow fascism or authoritarianism to raise its head. Nor should our beloved motherland ever become a subservient state. On this issue, I firmly believe there is national unity between the treasury and opposition benches, and we will preserve that unity at any cost." Rahman said the government plans to raise education spending to 5% of GDP over the next five years, alongside teacher training programs to improve education quality. He said health expenditure will be raised from the current 1.2% of GDP to 5% over the same period to rebuild the healthcare system (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Tarique says lists of 1971 martyrs, freedom fighters were prepared politically:** Speaking during the Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in parliament on Wednesday, he said the people responsible for the lists were not impartial and his government has formed a committee to address the issue. **"After independence, those responsible were meant to prepare an accurate list of martyrs and freedom fighters. Instead, they compiled it on political grounds rather than impartially,"** Tarique said. After the victory in the Liberation War in 1971, the Awami League formed the government. However, the initiative to prepare the list of freedom fighters was taken in 1984 during the reign of the then military dictator Hussain Muhammad Ershad. The list was revised by following governments. The prime minister said, **"We've already formed a committee with experts from the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs to identify the real freedom fighters and martyrs."** He also reiterated her party's election pledge to compile a **"complete list"** of martyrs of the Liberation War, saying they have already taken necessary measures. "Through the implementation of the initiatives, it will be possible to compile an accurate and acceptable list of genocide victims and all martyrs, and to provide due recognition and dignity to their sacrifice," said the premier (*bdnews24.com*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **PM announces plan for 'Universal Card' to integrate all citizen welfare services:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday announced plans to introduce a "Universal Card" that will consolidate all government welfare benefits under a single platform to strengthen the social and financial security of citizens. Delivering his winding-up speech on the budget during the second session of Parliament, the prime minister said the proposed card would eventually integrate existing schemes, including the Family Card, Farmer Card, Sports Card, Expatriate Card and special cards issued to imams, muezzins and religious leaders. The sitting was presided over by Deputy Speaker Kaiser Kamal. **"The benefits provided through these cards are not acts of charity by the state but its responsibility towards citizens," the prime minister said.** He said citizens would, in future, be able to access all government welfare services through a single identity and card under the proposed Universal Card system (*Daily Sun*, [15 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM says Zero tolerance to extremism:** The second session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad was prorogued on Wednesday, with prime minister Tarique Rahman pledging that the government would not tolerate any form of extremism or radicalism and calling for cooperation from the opposition to build a Bangladesh where democratic rights would not be undermined in the name of any ideology. **He said the collective efforts of parliament members and the people would help establish Bangladesh as an equitable, extremism-free and genuinely democratic welfare state.** 'Neither extremism nor radicalism will have any place in the Bangladesh we believe in,' he said, adding that the ruling and opposition parties had differences on various issues in parliament but believed they would cooperate in resisting extremism. A total of 26 sittings were held during the second and the first budget session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad, **with 10 government bills passed, according to a statement issued at the conclusion of the session on Wednesday** (*New Age*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM orders naming a city road after Qatar's ex-emir Sheikh Hamad:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to take initiatives to name a suitable road in the capital after former Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Taking part in a discussion on a proposal moved by Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman to name a road in Dhaka after the former Emir of Qatar, the Leader of the House said that he had already verbally instructed the concerned ministry in this regard. **"The PM extended sincere thanks to the Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of the government, for raising this matter on Wednesday.** Paying tribute to the late former Emir of Qatar, Tarique Rahman said, "By honouring the late Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, we are also expressing our respect to the people of Qatar. **Qatar is a country that has supported Bangladesh's development journey in many ways and continues to do so."** By providing employment opportunities to millions of Bangladeshis, Qatar has become a valuable partner in Bangladesh's economic development, he said. "Moreover, when tensions arose in the Middle East over the Strait of Hormuz and Qatar itself came under various attacks, it took care of millions of Bangladeshi expatriates as if they were its own citizens and ensured their safety," the premier added. Considering all these contributions, he said, Bangladesh declared state mourning on Wednesday in honour of the late Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani while the national flag has been flown at half-mast (*Daily Sun*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM recalls contribution of July martyrs to restore democracy:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has recalled the contribution of those who embraced martyrdom and the wounded in the July movement—which turned into a mass uprising to free the nation from the fascist regime. In a message on the occasion the of the July Martyrs' Day, he said 16 July is being observed as the historic July Martyrs' Day across the country with profound respect, mourning, and gratitude for the martyrs, along with a renewed commitment to institutionalising democracy in every sphere of the nation. On this day in 2024, at least six people were martyred during the anti-fascist movement, including Abu Sayed, a student of the Department of English at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, who was shot by police, and Mohammad Wasim Akram, a college student in Chattogram, he mentioned. In Rangpur, Shaheed Abu Sayed stood before the police with his arms outstretched, baring his chest in defiance, he said, adding that the image of police firing at Abu Sayed stirred intense outrage among people who aspired to democracy. What had begun as a movement demanding quota reform soon transformed into a movement to overthrow the fascist government, he said (*Prothom Alo*, [16 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BFIU says Tk 760bn in assets linked to Hasina family, 10 business groups frozen:** The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) says assets worth Tk 760 billion linked to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her family and 10 business groups have been frozen as part of investigations into money laundering. BFIU Head Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Mamun disclosed the figures at a press conference at Bangladesh Bank headquarters on Wednesday while presenting the agency's activities for the 2024-25 fiscal year. He said the assets had been frozen under court orders in connection with 11 joint money laundering investigations. **"Assets worth Tk 760 billion have been frozen under court orders in 11 joint investigations into money laundering. Of this, Tk 570 billion is located within the country, while Tk 190 billion is abroad,"** Mamun said. Asked about progress in recovering laundered funds, he said the process was continuing. "Our work is ongoing. We are optimistic that by the end of this year we will be able to give the people of the country some good news," he said (*bdnews24.com*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt rules out executive ban on Awami League:** The government has ruled out banning the Awami League through an executive or administrative order, saying the party's political future will instead be determined through judicial proceedings under Bangladesh's amended International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) and Anti-Terrorism laws. **Speaking at a discussion marking the anniversary of the July 2024 mass uprising at Dhaka University on Wednesday, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said the government wants the fate of the former ruling party to be decided "through a completely legal and judicial process" rather than by executive action. "We are not in favour of banning any political party through an administrative or executive order," he said. "We want the political future of this organisation to be determined through a completely legal and judicial process."** The minister said recent amendments to the International Crimes Tribunal Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act have created legal grounds to prosecute both former prime minister Sheikh Hasina as an individual and the Awami League as an organisation. Referring to Article 47 of the Constitution, he said Bangladeshi law provides for trying organisations accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. Drawing a comparison with the post-World War II Nuremberg Trials, Salahuddin Ahmed argued that political organisations cannot evade responsibility if crimes are committed through state institutions under their authority (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Home Minister says No scope for surrender, Hasina will be arrested immediately upon return:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said there would be no scope for ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to surrender, as she would be arrested immediately upon return and the court verdict against her would be executed in accordance with the law. Speaking as chief guest at a discussion titled "The Day that Changed the Course of the Mass Uprising" at the TSC Auditorium of Dhaka University, organised by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Salahuddin said, "We have always wanted her return through legal means. During the interim government's tenure, a letter was sent to the Indian government under the extradition treaty, and we have also sent reminders. We want her brought back to Bangladesh so that the verdict against her can be executed." **He said efforts were underway to bring back former ministers, MPs and officials who had supported the previous Awami League government and were now abroad. "Those involved in genocide and those who -- like the Pakistani occupation forces -- attacked freedom-loving people of Bangladesh also have the right to due process, and we will bring them to justice,"** said the home minister (*The Daily Star*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Nahid Islam says Hasina's appeal deadline has expired:** Nahid Islam, convener of National Citizen Party (NCP) and opposition chief whip in parliament, has said there is no legal scope for ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to appeal against her death sentence, urging the government to arrest her immediately upon arrival in Bangladesh and execute the court's verdict. Speaking today at a programme, titled "Smaran Gathay July: Biplober Dinguli", organised by the Dhaka University unit of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, Nahid said Hasina's 30-day window to file an appeal had already expired without any submission on her behalf. **"There was a 30-day window to file an appeal. No appeal was filed on Sheikh Hasina's behalf within that period. Therefore, there is no scope for an appeal against the verdict," he said.** Referring to media reports, Nahid said, "We have seen reports that fascist Hasina said she would return to the country in December to surrender. We know December is the month of surrender. Whether Sheikh Hasina returns in December or at any other time is for the Bangladesh government to determine." **"She will return, and as soon as she arrives, she will be arrested at the airport and the verdict against her will be executed,"** Nahid added (*The Daily Star*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **HSC examinees march to Secretariat over 3-point demands:** Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees marched toward the Secretariat on Wednesday after blocking the Science Laboratory intersection in Dhaka for around 30 minutes to press their three-point demand. Earlier, after completing their examinations, the students gathered at the intersection, chanted slogans and announced the march. The protesters said their demands had yet to be met and urged the government to implement them immediately. **During the march, they chanted slogans including: "One point, one demand—resignation of the education minister" and "Who are you, who am I—farm chickens."** They also carried placards calling for the suspension of examinations and the resignation of the education minister. **The students' three demands are: Suspension of the HSC and equivalent examinations until the disaster situation improves; A fresh examination for candidates who were unable to sit for the July 13 exam due to adverse weather; and Resignation of Education and Primary and Mass Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon.** Police have blocked a "long march" by protesting students towards the Secretariat, as demonstrators pressed their demand for the education minister's resignation amid a row over Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams. Police erected barricades near the Education Building on Abdul Gani Road around 3:45pm on Wednesday, stopping the march from advancing after students set out from Science Laboratory intersection. Several students were also seen arguing with journalists after reporters asked participants to identify themselves (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#); *bdnews24.com*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Milon row: BNP fears wider political challenge:** Treading carefully amid fears of a wider political crisis, the BNP government is taking a cautious approach as escalating student protests demand the resignation of Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon. Concerns are mounting within the party and the government that the campaign could be exploited to trigger a wider political crisis for the five-month-old administration. **Several BNP leaders have warned Prime Minister Tarique Rahman that while the movement began over the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination controversy and the minister's alleged "farm chicken" remark, the underlying objective of some groups involved may be to destabilise and bring down the government.** These anxieties are heavily influenced by memories of the July 2024 student movement, which began over quota reforms in government jobs but rapidly transformed into a mass uprising that ended the fifteen-and-a-half-year Awami League

administration following a violent crackdown. **Government insiders said the current administration wants to remain flexible in handling the protests to ensure the education minister issue is not exploited as a platform for a wider political agenda.** Several BNP leaders and cabinet members confirmed that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman held separate meetings with ministers and advisers on Tuesday to assess the situation. Alongside Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon, adviser Mahdi Amin and State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj were summoned to the prime minister's parliament office for discussions (*Times of Bangladesh*, [16 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **FRESH IMF LOAN: Govt plans to tap int'l bond market:** The government is considering tapping the international bond market to meet its growing foreign currency needs as borrowing from multilateral lenders becomes more expensive following interest rate hikes, officials said on Tuesday. They said that the government also planned to rely more on external financing to reduce domestic borrowing and ease the crowding-out effect on private-sector credit. The government has projected borrowing Tk 6,000 crore less from the banking sector in the current 2026–27 financial year than the Tk 1.18 lakh crore borrowed in FY26. Officials of Treasury and Debt Management under the Finance Division outlined the financing strategy during a meeting with a fact-finding mission of the International Monetary Fund at the finance ministry at the secretariat in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday, officials who attended the meeting said (*New Age*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BEPZA contributes 17.51% to national exports in FY2025-26:** Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) contributed 17.51 per cent to the country's total exports in fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, while achieving record success in attracting new investment proposals and generating employment despite global economic challenges. According to BEPZA, exports from its zones reached US\$ 8.41 billion during the fiscal year, accounting for 17.51 per cent of Bangladesh's total exports of US\$ 48 billion. In comparison, exports from BEPZA zones stood at US\$ 8.22 billion in FY25, said a press release. While the country's overall exports declined by 0.58 per cent in FY26, exports from BEPZA-operated zones grew by 2.2 per cent, highlighting the resilience of industries operating in the export processing zones. BEPZA also secured a record US\$ 717.71 million in proposed investments through lease agreements signed with 36 companies from China, South Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa and Bangladesh. It described the figure as the highest investment commitment received in a single fiscal year. The proposed industries are expected to create employment opportunities for 75,744 Bangladeshi nationals once they begin full commercial operations (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM: Capacity of Ctg port rising, Bay Terminal to boost trade, cut costs:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday said the government has taken a series of infrastructure, digitalization, and equipment modernization initiatives to enhance the capacity and efficiency of Chittagong Port, expressing confidence that the planned Bay Terminal will significantly boost the country's trade and economy. He also said anyone found responsible for corruption involving the country's key seaport will face legal action, regardless of when the alleged offenses took place. The prime minister outlined several

measures taken to enhance the port's capacity. These include the construction and operation of the Patenga Container Terminal, development of the Laldia Container Terminal, and regular capital and maintenance dredging to maintain navigability, he said. Tarique Rahman also highlighted ongoing digitalization initiatives, including the introduction of the online Port Community System, e-delivery orders, e-payment services, e-gate passes, CPA SKY, and the Port Single Window as part of efforts to establish a paperless port. The government has also initiated steps to automate overall port operations and procure new cargo and container handling equipment to address equipment shortages during the 2025-26 fiscal year, he added (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **UNGA President-elect Khalilur meets European leaders in New York:** President-elect of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Dr Khalilur Rahman has held separate meetings with senior leaders from Slovakia, Georgia and North Macedonia to exchange views on the priorities of the upcoming UN General Assembly session. Dr Rahman, who is also Bangladesh Foreign Minister met Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blanár, Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Lasha Darsalia, and North Macedonian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Zoran Dimitrovski in New York on Tuesday, foreign ministry said Wednesday morning. During the meetings, the leaders discussed key priorities for the 81st session of the UN General Assembly and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. **The president-elect reaffirmed his commitment to leading an open, inclusive and member state-driven presidency, underscoring the importance of close engagement and broad-based cooperation with all UN member states throughout the session.** The meetings formed part of Dr Rahman's ongoing consultations with representatives of UN member states ahead of the opening of the 81st session of the General Assembly (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Titumir seeks stronger UN support for LDC graduation process:** Prime Minister's Adviser Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir has sought stronger United Nations support to ensure Bangladesh's smooth and sustainable graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category while accelerating SDG implementation and reforms. **The adviser on finance and planning, made the call during separate meetings with senior UN officials in New York on Tuesday on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2026, according to a message received.** He met UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN-ESCAP) Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, and UNDP Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Kanni Wignaraja. During the meetings, Dr. Titumir explained the rationale behind Bangladesh's request for a three-year extension of the preparatory period for LDC graduation to ensure the transition becomes irreversible. The adviser also highlighted the government's Recovery, Restoration and Reconstruction (3R) Strategy as the roadmap for restoring economic stability and advancing long-term sustainable development (*BSS News*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Speaker hands over PM's condolence message to Qatar's Emir:** Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram on Tuesday handed over a condolence message from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad

Al Thani, following the death of former Qatar Emir and father of the current Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. The message was handed over during a state condolence meeting held at the Lusail Palace, a prominent royal residence on the outskirts of Doha, Qatar, that serves as a venue for official state functions, high-level diplomatic receptions, and traditional gatherings hosted by the Emir on July 14. **On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, the Speaker conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the Emir and the bereaved members of the Qatar royal family. He also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. The Speaker paid tribute to the late Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, remembering him with profound respect as the architect of modern Qatar.** Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy Humayun Kabir, along with Bangladesh Ambassador to Qatar Mohammad Hazrat Ali Khan, were present during the ceremony. **Following the condolence event, the Speaker held a meeting with Speaker of Qatar's Shura Council, Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim.** Earlier, the Speaker arrived in Doha on the afternoon of July 14 on a brief official visit to convey Bangladesh's condolences over the passing away of the former Amir (*BSS News*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **US ambassador calls on housing and public works minister:** United States Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen called on Housing and Public Works Minister Zakaria Taher at the minister's office at the Bangladesh Secretariat. **During the meeting, the two sides discussed further strengthening the long-standing friendly relations between Bangladesh and the United States, said a PID handout. They also exchanged views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including the housing sector, the National Building Code, urban development, affordable housing for the general public, and the development of public spaces and parks.** During the meeting, the minister sought US cooperation in establishing the Bangladesh Earthquake Safety and Research Institute (BESRI) to strengthen the country's earthquake disaster management capacity. In response, the ambassador assured his support in facilitating contacts with experienced US experts in the field. Christensen also expressed the interest of various US organizations in contributing to the development of Bangladesh's housing sector (*BSS News*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Saudi Arabia keen to expand investment in Bangladesh's transport, logistics sectors:** Saudi Arabia has expressed strong interest in expanding its investment footprint in Bangladesh, particularly in transport and logistics, with a special focus on maritime sector development. **The interest was conveyed during a meeting between Saudi Deputy Minister of Transport and Logistics Dr. Rumaih Mohammed Al-Rumaih and his delegation with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Executive Chairman Ashik Chowdhury at Biniyog Bhaban today, said a press release.** During the discussion, the Saudi deputy minister praised Bangladesh's ongoing efforts to promote privatisation and improve the business climate, saying the initiatives are aligned with Saudi Arabia's own economic strategy. The meeting also discussed the operations of Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT) in Bangladesh, where over 98 percent of employees are Bangladeshis. The company is exploring further opportunities to modernise terminal operations by introducing advanced technologies and improving operational efficiency. Both sides underscored the importance of capitalising on the current momentum to advance mutually beneficial projects and deepen bilateral investment cooperation (*BSS News*, [15 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh showcases maritime capabilities at China maritime event:** A Bangladeshi delegation participated in panel discussions at the China Maritime Forum and the International

Conference on Ship Technology and Safety, said a press release. **The four-member national delegation, led by Bangladesh Marine Academy Commandant Capt Kazi ABM Shameem, represented the country alongside key officials from the Department of Shipping and National Maritime Training Institutes. Held on July 10–11 in Yangzhou, China, the event saw Bangladesh showcase its expanding maritime capabilities. The delegation explored strategic bilateral opportunities with China to strengthen training partnerships, technology exchanges, and the global recruitment of Bangladeshi seafarers. During a keynote address, Capt Shameem detailed how Bangladesh is modernising its maritime training to equip future seafarers with the digital competencies and technological skills required for smart, green, and intelligent shipping** (*New Age*, [15 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Canada explore closer ties in livestock, food safety cooperation:** Bangladesh has moved to deepen cooperation with Canada in livestock development, safe animal-based food production, food security and trade capacity building. **A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, led by secretary Delwar Hossain, held a bilateral meeting with Prarthi Muthukumarasamy, director general of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and other senior officials at the agency's headquarters in Ottawa on Tuesday, said a PID handout on Wednesday. The two sides held detailed discussions on livestock development, food security, animal health, veterinary services, animal feed quality control, disease surveillance, research, institutional capacity building and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. They also expressed mutual interest in expanding trade in animal products, enhancing technical cooperation, exchanging information and expertise, developing skilled human resources, and upgrading modern laboratory and food inspection systems** (*New Age*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Canada tightens asylum door for Bangladeshis:** For thousands of Bangladeshis seeking refuge in Canada, the journey no longer ends with filing an asylum claim. Instead, it begins with years of uncertainty as tighter immigration rules, declining approval rates, and a mounting backlog leave many trapped in legal limbo. **For thousands of Bangladeshis seeking refuge in Canada, the journey no longer ends with filing an asylum claim. Instead, it begins with years of uncertainty as tighter immigration rules, declining approval rates, and a mounting backlog leave many trapped in legal limbo.** The growing backlog comes as Canada grapples with mounting pressure on housing, healthcare, education, and immigration administration following a sharp rise in temporary residents, international students, foreign workers, and refugee claimants during the post-pandemic period (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **European envoys meet aviation minister over Airbus deal:** Civil aviation and tourism minister Afroza Khanam and state minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat held a meeting with top diplomats from France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany and the European Union at the conference room of the ministry in Dhaka on Wednesday. **During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening the longstanding friendship and expanding the multifaceted bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the European Union, as well as its member states, said a press release. They also held comprehensive discussions on enhancing cooperation, particularly in the development of Bangladesh's civil aviation sector.** The meeting included detailed discussions on the possible acquisition of Airbus aircraft as part of the fleet expansion programme of Biman Bangladesh Airlines (*New Age*, [16 July 2026](#)).

Security

❖ **Five platoons of BGB deployed in Gopalganj ahead of Jul 16 anniversary of deadly clashes:** Five platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been deployed in Gopalganj as part of heightened security ahead of the first anniversary of the deadly clashes surrounding the National Citizen Party's (NCP) march that left five people dead. District Superintendent of Police Md Habibullah said on Wednesday that the deployment was intended to strengthen security before Jul 16. "From Wednesday morning, BGB personnel began patrolling key areas of the town. They are conducting joint patrols with police and the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)," he told journalists. Police have also set up checkpoints at important locations across the town, while plainclothes officers have been deployed as part of the security arrangements. On Jul 16, 2025, five people were killed in a series of clashes in Gopalganj involving members of the then newly formed NCP's march, law-enforcing agencies and activists of the Awami League, whose activities have been banned. Police said the enhanced security measures had been taken to prevent any untoward incidents and ensure that law and order remained stable on the anniversary (bdnews24.com, [15 July 2026](#)).

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