

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

20 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Delhi holds 'remote control' over Bangladesh's political turmoil:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar today alleged that Delhi holds the "remote control" behind Bangladesh's political turmoil, claiming it influences the country's politics, economy, trade and culture. "Delhi controls the remote behind all the political chaos, oppression and changes of power in this country. It also exerts control over the economy, politics, business, trade and culture," he told reporters after addressing a members' (Rukn) conference at the Narsingdi Shishu Academy auditorium this afternoon. Referring to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Porwar said that India was allowing "a death-row convict" to stay in Delhi with access to technological facilities and other comforts in violation of the Geneva Conventions, laws relating to prisoner exchange and other legal provisions. "We want friendly and fair relations with all neighbouring countries in the interest of Bangladesh. But when a country repeatedly takes steps that go against Bangladesh's politics, government and national interests, the people do not welcome that," he said (*The Daily Star*, [17 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shibir organises 'League Dhor' marathon at DU:** Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on Friday organised a marathon titled "League Dhor" [Catch the League] and inaugurated a three-day photo exhibition titled "Roktakhor-e July" [July in Blood-stained Letters] at Dhaka University to mark Terrorism Prevention Day. The marathon commenced at 6:00am with students from various departments. Organisers said the event was held to commemorate the expulsion of Bangladesh Chhatra League from Dhaka University's residential halls on 17 July 2024, and to preserve the memories of July movement. Following the run, the three-day exhibition was officially inaugurated at 8:00am at the university's Bottala by Shadik Kayem, Vice President (VP) of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU). Speaking at the inauguration, DUCSU VP Sadiq Kayem said the expulsion of the "terrorist organisation Chhatra League" on 17 July marked the start of a "new freedom," which reached its ultimate form with the fall of fascism on 5 August. He added that there is no alternative to implementing the July Charter to ensure justice for the martyrs and to build Bangladesh they desired. The "League Dhor" (Catch the League) marathon organised by the Dhaka University unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir last Friday was intended as a symbolic reminder of the resistance against the now-banned Chhatra League, said Md Abu Shadik (Shadik Kayem), vice president of Ducs and immediate past leader of Shibir. Eyewitnesses said four to five helmet-wearing individuals carrying sticks appeared during the marathon. Participants chased them, caught them, and gave them symbolic beatings. Organisers said the helmeted individuals represented Chhatra League members and that the demonstration was meant to encourage students to resist any attempt by the organisation -- currently banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act -- to return to campus. However, the event also drew criticism. Some students argued that, much like the "Shibir Dhor" slogans once used by Chhatra League, organising a programme around chasing and symbolically beating opponents risked normalising the same culture of intimidation and violence (*Times of Bangladesh*, [17 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [19 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Home Minister says Opposition misleading people over July Charter:** LGRD Minister and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir accused the opposition of misleading the public over the July Charter, saying BNP remains committed to implementing every provision of the document. "The opposition is saying that if the demand to implement the July Charter is not met in parliament, the issue will be settled on the streets. This issue is being raised to mislead people," Fakhrul said while speaking at a memorial meeting at the Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Hall of National Press Club in Dhaka. "We signed the July Charter together. All the parties that joined the [July 2024] movement signed it. We have said repeatedly that we will implement every word of the July Charter," he said. Fakhrul also said BNP had never agreed to proportional representation in the upper house. "He said the July Charter clearly states that the elected party would implement it in line with its election manifesto. The BNP leader also defended his party's reform record, saying, "We have always said that we want to amend the constitution. We have never talked about reforming the constitution," he said. He alleged that some opponents wanted to use the July Charter "only to come to power", adding that the July 2024 movement was the culmination of BNP's long struggle against what he described as fascism. He further remarked that the debate on the implementation of the July Charter should end. Calling upon the opposition party to join the Constitution Amendment Committee, he said the debate should be resolved through talks. The opportunity created by the July Movement to form a new state must be implemented, he added (*The Daily Star*, [17 July 2026](#); [18 July 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Banned BCL brings out flash procession:** A group of leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the banned Awami League, brought out a flash procession in Sylhet early Friday morning. Local people said that a group of about 25 to 30 leaders and activists of the banned BCL brought out a flash procession on Shahi Eidgah MC College road in the city demanding immediate withdrawal of the ban order imposed against the BCL and its main political party, the Awami League. They also chanted slogans demanding withdrawal of the cases filed against the organisation leaders and the release of the arrested leaders during the flash protest procession that began in front of the Imam Training Institution and ended at Purba Shahi Eidgah area in the city. Later on Friday evening, BCL supporter Masum Ahmed Mahi uploaded video footage of the procession to Facebook and it went viral (*New Age*, [18 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **11 AL members sent to jail over attack on police:** A court in Pabna on Saturday sent 11 activists of Awami League, activities of which have been banned for July atrocities, to jail in connection with two cases filed over a recent attack on police, damage of police vehicles, and a plot to create instability. Senior Judicial Magistrate Md. Matiur Rahman of the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court sent them to jail. Earlier, police conducted raids on various places at Sujanagar upazila on Saturday and made the arrests. Police on Thursday midnight filed two cases against 300 leaders and activists of the AL and the banned Chhatra League in Pabna's Sujanagar Upazila, over attacks on police following announcements from a mosque. Sujanagar Upazila Awami League president Abdul Wahab was named as the main accused in both cases filed with Sujanagar police station (*New Age*, [18 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **AL leader's house demolished, set on fire in Patuakhali:** A group of miscreants on early Saturday demolished the house of a local Awami League leader with an excavator, looted valuables and set the property on fire in Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali. The incident occurred at the house of Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Lavlu Kazi, former president of Madhabkhali Union Awami League and former chairman of the union parishad, near Kathaltali Bazar on the Barguna-Subidkhali-Kathaltali-Bakerganj regional highway. Locals said that Mizanur

Rahman left the area with his family following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024. Since then, his elderly mother had been living alone in the house. Rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra on Sunday condemned the attack in which miscreants allegedly demolished the house of a local Awami League leader with an excavator, looted valuables and set the property on fire in Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali. In a statement issued on the day, ASK said that it believed that if there was a complaint against an individual or a group, the matter should be addressed only through legal and judicial processes. 'Demolishing someone's house, looting property or setting it on fire without due legal process is completely against the rule of law. It is the constitutional responsibility of the state to protect the life, property and security of every citizen, regardless of political identity or ideology,' the statement said. ASK also called on the authorities concerned to immediately ensure an impartial and effective investigation into the incident and take necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future (*New Age*, [18 July 2026](#); [19 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Mahdi Amin details BNP government's 'key achievements' in first five months:** The BNP government has achieved "multidimensional and unprecedented success" across all ministries during its first five months in office, focusing on democratic reconstruction and economic stability, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. Speaking at a press conference at the PMO on Saturday, spokesperson Mahdi Amin said the government's achievements could be grouped into five broad areas: public trust, protection of the interests of people from all walks of life in line with its election manifesto, successful handling of major short-term challenges, safeguarding national sovereignty and freedoms, and the statesmanlike leadership of the prime minister. He said the government had also laid the foundation for "a humane, discrimination-free, secure, merit-based, prosperous and self-reliant Bangladesh". Mahdi said that after assuming office through a direct public mandate, the government prioritised rebuilding democratic institutions and maintaining economic stability. He claimed it had sent a strong message on good governance by controlling inflation, restoring discipline in the financial sector, working to recover laundered money and reviewing development projects to ensure cost efficiency and eliminate corruption. He also said rehabilitation efforts were under way for people affected by recent floods, while work continued to rebuild the health and education sectors (*bdnews24.com*, [18 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt to launch 'Probashi Card' pilot next month:** The government is set to launch the "Probashi Card" (Expatriate Card) on a pilot basis in the second week of next month, with the state-owned Janata Bank issuing the Probashi Debit Card in the first phase. The meeting was informed that the government aims to distribute 50,000 Probashi Cards by December this year and 200,000 cards by June next year. Shadhin said all Probashi Card-related activities would be carried out through the Probashi Kallyan Bank in the second phase. The card, he said, is designed to provide a wide range of special facilities for Bangladeshi expatriates with the objective of enhancing their social status and empowerment, offering financial incentives and ensuring international payment and banking services through a dual-currency card. Shadhin said the introduction of the Probashi Card is one of the government's election pledges. As part of those commitments, the government has already begun implementing the Family Card, Farmer Card and Sports Card programmes, while the Probashi Card initiative is now being rolled out on a pilot basis (*Prothom Alo*, [18 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Trust, transparency disputes split Inquilab Mancha:** A public dispute surrounding the cultural platform Inquilab Cultural Centre has exposed divisions within Inquilab Mancha, with

allegations centring on the formation of a trust, financial transparency, and disagreements over the organisational structure left behind by its founder, Sharif Osman Hadi. According to the Hadi Foundation, established by people close to Hadi's family, the crisis began after attempts were made following his death to alter the trustee board he had designated, take control of the Cultural Centre's bank account and administrative authority, and disagreements emerged over financial accountability. The leaders who announced their resignation, however, said they stepped down after months of unsuccessful efforts to resolve legal complications related to inheritance. The foundation alleged that just two days after Hadi's death, Abdullah Al Jaber, Fatima Tasnim Juma and Borhan removed Omar Hadi from both Inquilab Mancha and the Cultural Center. The Hadi Foundation also alleged that financial management within the organisation was another major source of conflict. It said disagreements intensified after some members sought a complete account of the centre's income, expenditure, donations and other financial transactions, eventually escalating into a wider organisational dispute (*Times of Bangladesh*, [19 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **‘Want to further strengthen ties with China’:** The ruling BNP wants to further strengthen its geopolitical, economic, and commercial relations with China, said BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday. He said the existing relationship between the two countries had been further reinforced through the recent visit of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to China. Mirza Fakhrul was addressing a discussion titled “Long Live Bangladesh-China Friendship” at a hotel in Dhaka, organised by the Bangladesh-China Friendship Association following the premier's visit to China. Fakhrul said Tarique Rahman's visit to China has further energised bilateral relations while Bangladesh youths are going to China in different occasions and building relationships there. The BNP has maintained a long-standing relationship with the Communist Party of China, said Fakhrul. He stressed the need for Bangladesh to pursue a balanced foreign policy by strengthening relations not only with China but also with India, Europe, the United States, and other global partners based on mutual interests and national priorities. Speaking as a special guest, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon described China as a key development partner that could support Bangladesh's economic transformation. He emphasized expanding bilateral trade and exports, improving China-Myanmar-Bangladesh road connectivity, and enhancing China's role in facilitating a peaceful and sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hefazat leaders meet ICT chief prosecutor over Shapla Chattar investigation:** Senior leaders of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh met the chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Sunday to inquire about the progress of the investigation into the alleged killings during the organisation's rally at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel on May 5, 2013. A delegation of 10 to 15 members, led by Senior Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdul Hamid (Madhupur Pir Sahib), met Chief Prosecutor Advocate Md Aminul Islam at his office. The delegation also included Joint Secretary General Maulana Mamunul Haque, Mufti Harun Izhar and Mufti Mir Idris. According to prosecution sources, the investigation report dddnames 41 accused, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former army chief General Aziz Ahmed, journalists Mozammel Babu and Farzana Rupa, and writer Shahriar Kabir. The prosecution said details of the report will be disclosed at a formal press conference (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Chief prosecutor says Draft probe report names Sheikh Hasina, others in Shapla Chattar case:** The investigation agency of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has

submitted a draft investigation report in the crimes against humanity case over the killings surrounding Hefazat-e-Islam's rally at Shapla Chattar (Square) in Motijheel, Dhaka. The report was submitted to the Office of the Chief Prosecutor. According to Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam, the draft names Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted during the July Uprising, along with several others as accused. Briefing reporters at his office on Sunday afternoon, Aminul Islam said Sheikh Hasina's name appears in the draft report. He added that the report also names the then Inspector General of Police (IGP), the then director general of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and several other individuals. He said the prosecution would now review and verify the findings. Asked which other individuals had been named in the draft report, the chief prosecutor replied, "Since this is only a draft and we have not yet received the final investigation report, we do not want to, and cannot, disclose the list of accused." During the briefing, Aminul Islam said the tribunal's investigation agency had spent a long period investigating what he described as the "brutal killings" that took place at Shapla Chattar on 5 May 2013. Following the completion of its investigation, the agency submitted a draft report to the Chief Prosecutor's Office, which will now examine it (*Prothom Alo*, [19 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Ruling BNP moves to mend ties with allies:** The BNP has moved to ease discontent among parties that joined its simultaneous movement against the ousted Awami League government, amid complaints over seat sharing, unfulfilled promises and a lack of consultation since it came to power. Five months after forming the government, BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will meet leaders of allied parties and host them for dinner tonight at the State Guest House Jamuna. This will be Tarique's first meeting with the allies since the government took office. Leaders of both registered and unregistered parties that joined the movement have been invited. Party sources said the meeting may focus on seat-sharing grievances, coordination and ways to advance the goals of the anti-Awami League movement. The allies are also expected to raise concerns over not being adequately valued or consulted on key political issues. Several allies see the meeting as a test of whether the BNP will rebuild coordination or continue what they describe as a "go-it-alone" approach. They are also expected to discuss their role at different levels of government and how their party members will be evaluated ahead of the local government elections (*The Daily Star*, [20 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **EU, G77 reaffirm support for Bangladesh's 'smooth', 'sustainable' LDC graduation:** The European Union and the Group of 77 and China have reaffirmed their support for a "smooth", "sustainable" and "stable" graduation for Bangladesh from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category. The assurances came during separate meetings at the United Nations headquarters between Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir and EU Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, head of the EU delegation, and Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre, chair of the G77 and China and Uruguay's permanent representative to the UN, the Ministry of Commerce said on Friday. Muktedir told the envoys Bangladesh needed three more years to complete its graduation preparations, citing its ongoing economic and political transition, global uncertainty, energy-sector challenges and the need to see structural reforms through. He also pointed to the government's commitment to strengthening governance, shoring up the financial sector, improving infrastructure, boosting domestic resource mobilisation, and building an investment-friendly environment (*bdnews24.com*, [17 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **US-Bangla unveils \$1.1bn fleet expansion to challenge foreign airlines:** At a time when the state-owned flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines is planning to acquire aircraft from both Boeing and Airbus, private carrier US-Bangla Airlines has also announced a major fleet expansion. The airline aims to compete more aggressively with foreign carriers and capture a larger share of Bangladesh's aviation market. Twelve years after its establishment, US-Bangla has announced plans to invest \$1.11 billion or Tk 140 billion to add 21 new Boeing aircraft to its fleet -- the largest fleet expansion ever undertaken by a private airline in the country. At the same time, the airline has proposed operating Hajj flights at the country's lowest fare and has announced plans to resume flights to Kathmandu, a route suspended after its fatal 2018 crash (*bdnews24.com*, [18 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Kaptai dam opens 16 spillway gates as lake level rises:** Bangladesh has opened 16 spillway gates at the Kaptai dam after water levels in Kaptai Lake rose, as authorities moved to ease pressure on the reservoir and help control flooding in low-lying areas. On Saturday around 11:30am, the 16 gates were lifted by 6 inches each, Karnafuli Hydropower Station Manager Mahmud Hasan said. The opening is releasing about 9,000 cusecs of water from the lake into the Karnaphuli River. The river ultimately drains into the Bay of Bengal. According to the hydropower station's control room, all five generating units are producing 222MW of electricity. They are also discharging another 32,000 cusecs of water from the reservoir into the river (*bdnews24.com*, [18 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **India reviewing Dhaka's extradition request for Hasina:** India on Friday reiterated that Bangladesh's extradition request for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is being taken into consideration, given the legalities and judicial processes involved. "We have received a request for extradition. This request, as we have said earlier as well, is under examination, and the request is being taken into consideration, given the legalities that are involved and the judicial processes....," Spokesperson at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in New Delhi during a regular media briefing. Regarding the return of Hasina, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam on Thursday said the Indian government needs to demonstrate political and diplomatic will and all kinds of goodwill (*Dhaka Tribune*, [17 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi: Rafi's classics unite humanity beyond borders:** The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India in Dhaka organised a musical evening on Thursday to commemorate the death anniversary of legendary Indian playback singer Mohammed Rafi, whose timeless melodies continue to resonate across generations and transcend national boundaries. City& Local Guides The programme featured popular Indian vocalist Priyangbada Banerjee and Bangladeshi singer Md. Rashed Uddin, who paid tribute to Rafi with a selection of his iconic songs. Their performances reflected the enduring popularity of Rafi's music in both Bangladesh and India, where his melodies continue to occupy a cherished place in the cultural memory of audiences. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Ali Newaz Mahmood Khyom and his spouse, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi, Deputy High Commissioner Pawan Badhe, among others, attended the event (*Dhaka Tribune*, [17 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **US Army and Bangladesh Armed Forces launch Tiger Lightning 26 bilateral exercise:** The US Army and Bangladesh Armed Forces will officially kick off the annual Tiger Lightning exercise today, 19 July. This bilateral exercise unites over 160 service members from both countries, enhancing collaboration and ability to operate in real-world scenarios, says a press release. Tiger Lightning 26 includes training that focuses on jungle operations, counter-terror, and tactical combat casualty care, offering both nations a chance to understand each other's capabilities. This bilateral exercise is part of the United States Army Pacific's Theater Army Campaign Plan and security cooperation objectives aimed at enhancing professional relationships, improving military operations, increasing readiness, and fostering interoperability between the US Army and the Bangladesh Army. Tiger Lightning is a bilateral exercise between the US Army and the Bangladesh Armed Forces that started in 2017. It was briefly paused during the pandemic but then continued concurrently for the past five years. The exercise will take place in a variety of classroom and field environments, culminating in a field training exercise (*Prothom Alo*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Chinese envoy says Beijing to work with Dhaka to implement key consensus reached by two leaders:** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen has said his country is willing to work with Bangladesh to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. He also said China is willing to deepen exchanges on governance experiences, strengthen practical cooperation with Bangladesh across various fields, including the military sector, and better benefit both countries and their peoples. Ambassador Yao attended and addressed a seminar on high-level visits on Saturday. The event was attended by over a hundred participants, including LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon, and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat. Ambassador Yao said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's recent visit to China has yielded fruitful results, and the two countries agreed to elevate the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between Bangladesh and China to build a Bangladesh-China community with a shared future in the new era. He said China has always attached great importance to developing bilateral relations with Bangladesh and will always be a trustworthy good friend, good neighbour, and good partner of Bangladesh (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama Obaed: Bangladesh begins new journey to improve work ambience:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Sunday said Bangladesh is embarking on a new journey to improve the country's work environment through comprehensive labor-sector reforms aimed at advancing decent work, social justice and workers' rights. "Bangladesh is embarking on a new journey to improve work ambience," she said during a meeting with International Labor Organization (ILO) Director-General Gilbert F Hounbo at her office on Sunday afternoon, said a foreign ministry's press release. Hounbo met the state minister as part of his two-day visit to Bangladesh. During the meeting, Shama highlighted the government's commitment to advancing decent work, social justice and labor rights through comprehensive reforms in the labor sector. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to fulfilling pledges made in its election manifesto to advance democracy, human rights and workers' rights. The state minister also sought the ILO's continued cooperation and constructive engagement in strengthening labor governance, protecting migrant workers and facilitating safe, regular and skilled labor mobility from Bangladesh. Shama expressed hope that Bangladesh's significant progress in labor-sector reforms would be duly recognized at the upcoming session of the ILO Governing Body and help pave the way for the earliest possible closure of the ongoing case against Bangladesh under Article 26 of the ILO Constitution. The

ILO director-general expressed deep appreciation for the Bangladesh government's efforts and political commitment towards ensuring a better world of work. He reaffirmed the ILO's continued support for Bangladesh's priorities and efforts to advance labor-sector reforms, decent work and social justice (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladeshi passport: 'Except Israel' restored, new watermarks to feature Abu Sayed, Mugdho and Wasim:** The phrase "Except Israel" has been reinstated on Bangladeshi passports. The Ministry of Home Affairs today, Sunday, issued an official order restoring the wording, which had been removed six years ago during the tenure of the now-ousted Awami League government. The ministry has also instructed the Department of Immigration and Passports to take the necessary steps to implement the change. Officials at the Ministry of Home Affairs said that all newly issued passports will carry the phrase "Except Israel". They added that the decision was taken to bring the passport into line with Bangladesh's foreign policy, public sentiment and the country's long-standing position on the Palestinian issue. According to the government order, the existing images in the e-passport booklet have been rearranged and the design revised, expanded and updated, with the watermarks reorganised accordingly. A review of the order shows that several changes have been made to the e-passport watermarks. The new watermarks include images associated with the July 2024 mass uprising, featuring Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur; Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho; and Wasim Akrum. In addition, symbols representing all major religions have been incorporated into the e-passport (*Prothom Alo*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Deputy speaker Kayser Kamal seeks UNDP assistance to modernise Parliament:** Deputy speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal on Sunday sought technical and financial support from the United Nations Development Programme for implementing an e-Parliament initiative and strengthening parliamentary institutions. He made the request when a UNDP delegation, led by UNDP Bangladesh Deputy Resident Representative Sonali Dayaratne, paid a courtesy call on him at his office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, according to a press release. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on Bangladesh's parliamentary democracy and discussed possible initiatives to further strengthen parliamentary practices and legislative functions (*New Age*, [19 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Army Chief off to Turkey on five-day official visit:** Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman today left Dhaka for Turkey on a five-day official visit at the invitation of the Turkish government. During the visit, the army chief will inspect various defence industrial establishments in Turkey, according to a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate issued here. General Waker-Uz-Zaman will also hold courtesy meetings and exchange views with senior officials of the Turkish armed forces and key defence stakeholders, the release said. The meetings are aimed at further enhancing and strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and relations between Bangladesh and Turkey, the ISPR added (*Prothom Alo*, [19 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **From Streets to Screens: Bangladesh's New Battle Against Extremism:** The issue of violent extremism has returned to the centre of Bangladesh's national conversation following Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's statement in Jatiya Sangsad on July 15 that his government would maintain "zero tolerance" towards extremism and militancy. Yet the challenge extends far beyond any single government or political period. How Bangladesh responds to violent

extremism will have long-term consequences for its security, economy and social harmony. Bangladesh's own experience demonstrates that extremist violence carries a heavy human, economic and reputational cost. Bangladesh continues to face concerns over the spread of extremist narratives in public discourse. The challenge has now expanded into the digital world. The influence of online platforms became particularly visible during unrest following the killing of Inquilab Mancha spokesperson Osman Hadi in December 2025. The period following the 2024 political transition also generated debate over Bangladesh's counter-extremism efforts. Critics, security observers and rights organisations raised concerns that institutional disruption, political uncertainty and weaknesses in coordination created opportunities for radical groups to become more visible. Reports highlighted increased online mobilisation and public activities by individuals associated with hard-line ideologies. Bangladesh's future will not be shaped only by political promises. It will depend on whether its institutions consistently uphold the principles of law, accountability and tolerance. The country's development achievements have created historic opportunities for the next generation. Protecting those gains requires ensuring that extremism and violence do not determine the nation's path forward (*Daily Sun*, [19 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Defence Adviser holds meeting with Ajit Doval in Delhi:** Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (Retd.) AKM Shamsul Islam has met with India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on 15 July in Delhi. Neither Bangladesh nor India has officially disclosed details about the meeting. However, the meeting holds special significance due to the recent border situation, regional security, and last month's visit of Bangladesh's Prime Minister to China, according to diplomatic sources and analysts. On 16 July, the fifth summit of national security chiefs of BIMSTEC (a regional economic and technical cooperation alliance of Bay of Bengal coastal countries) was held in Delhi. Defence Adviser Shamsul Islam visited India the day before to attend this conference. He held a private meeting with India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in his office in the afternoon on 15 July. According to diplomatic sources, it is the first high-level discussion between Bangladesh and Delhi since Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to Beijing. Given the tensions over "push-in" at the border, political statements of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India's context, and the discomfort in overall bilateral relations, the meeting carries diplomatic significance. Diplomatic analysts believe that besides bilateral relations, the meeting might have covered the border situation, regional security, terrorism control, maritime security, and broader geopolitical scenarios. Sources indicate that there was open discussion on various issues between Shamsul Islam and Doval (*Prothom Alo*, [20 July 2026](#)).

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