

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

30 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **NCP announces month-long 'Desh Gorte July Jagoron' programme:** The National Citizen Party (NCP) has announced a month-long programme titled "Desh Gorte July Jagoron" to commemorate the July mass uprising and honour those martyred during the movement. According to press release, the programme aims to commemorate the month with due respect and carry the aspirations of the uprising to the new generation and people from all walks of life. Throughout July, the party will organise discussions, cultural events, processions, public outreach programmes, memorial events, sports and cultural competitions, and special programmes involving professionals and different sections of society. The month-long programme will begin on July 1 with prayers at Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial. **On the same day, the party will hold a solidarity meeting of anti-fascist student organisations. NCP will also announce a roadmap for month-long upazila-level marches under the banner "July Theke Jonopode", demanding justice and the implementation of the referendum** (*The Daily Star*, [29 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Opposition MPs to get Tk 20 crore allocation for dev works:** Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday said that opposition members of parliament (MPs) would receive an allocation of around Tk 20 crore for development works in their respective constituencies. Delivering a statement under Rule 300 of the Rules of Procedure at the Jatiya Sangsad, he said, "The Prime Minister has granted around Tk 20 crore from his discretionary fund for the constituencies represented by opposition MPs, excluding city corporation areas." **The minister also said that the allocation would be used for the development of mosques, graveyards and Eidgahs** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Unease in Jamaat over MPs' conduct:** Jamaat-e-Islami, serving as the main opposition in the 13th parliament, has been embroiled in a series of controversies regarding the conduct of its Members of Parliament (MPs). The party's central leadership is facing significant embarrassment following allegations of nepotism in government grant distribution, irregularities in relief efforts, bizarre demands in Parliament, and a claim by an MP of having a martyr father despite his parents being alive. Within just four months of the election, controversies surrounding several MPs have emerged, leaving policymakers in a state of unease. Central leaders argue that while major national issues and large-scale irregularities by others exist, the focus on minor grants or personal conduct is providing political opponents with an advantage. The latest lawmaker to face scrutiny is Aatur Rahman Bachhu, the lawmaker for Narail-2, who was criticised after his daughter's name appeared twice on a list for grants from his optional fund, receiving Tk10,000 on each occasion. Allegations also surfaced this week against Md Nurul Amin, the lawmaker for Rangpur-6 (Pirganj), regarding TR (Test Relief), Kabikha (Food for Work), and Kabita (Cash for Work) projects. Reports suggest he appointed his nephew, brother-in-law, and other relatives as chairmen of these project committees. Two other MPs have drawn criticism during the current session. On 14 June, during a budget discussion, Abdul Muntakim, the MP for Nilphamari-4, claimed to be

the “son of a martyr of the Liberation War.” On 17 June, Mizanur Rahman, the lawmaker for Chapainawabganj-2, sparked a debate by demanding that washing machines, microwave ovens, and curtains be provided for the MPs’ residential flats (*Times of Bangladesh*, [30 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Hindu priest admitted to hospital after alleged torture, extortion demand:** A 25-year-old law college student in Dhaka, who also works as a Hindu priest, has allegedly been held captive overnight, tortured, and extorted for money, according to his family members and friends. The victim, Subhash Deuri, 25, was admitted to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday morning with serious injuries. According to his sister, Jaya Deuri, Subhash is a student at Dhaka Central Law College. For the past several months, he had been working as an assistant priest at the central temple of Jagannath University, where he performed daily religious rituals and received a monthly honorarium. She alleged that unidentified individuals detained and tortured him throughout Monday night, robbed him of all his money and belongings, and forced him to call his relatives and friends to demand money (*bdnew24.com*, [30 June 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **PM says Teesta Barrage Master Plan to be implemented at any cost:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today pledged to implement the Teesta Barrage Master Plan "at any cost", describing it as a national priority to ensure water security, support agriculture and improve livelihoods in northern Bangladesh. Speaking during the general discussion on the proposed FY2026-27 budget in parliament, the prime minister said the government is committed to addressing the country's long-standing water management challenges through major investments in rivers, canals and irrigation infrastructure. "On the basis of national priority, this government will implement the Teesta Barrage Master Plan at any cost, In shaa Allah," he said. **Tarique said water remains one of the biggest concerns in the northern districts, particularly the Rajshahi and Rangpur regions, where lawmakers regularly raise issues relating to the Padma and Teesta rivers.** He said ensuring year-round water availability for agriculture is one of the government's key priorities. The prime minister said the government has already taken steps to construct the Padma Barrage to store excess monsoon water for use during the dry season (*The Daily Star*, [29 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Parliament approves Finance Bill 2026 with 64 amendments:** Parliament has passed the Finance Bill 2026 with 64 amendments after rejecting a proposal to send it for public review. The bill, brought to implement the FY2026-27 budget, was passed during Monday's parliamentary session. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury moved the bill, saying: “I propose that the Finance Bill, 2026, introduced to implement the government's financial proposals and amend certain laws, be passed in the form settled by parliament.” Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad then put the proposal to a voice vote, and it was approved. **Before the vote, lawmakers debated a proposal to send the bill for public review, with several MPs calling for greater public and elected representatives' participation in the budget-making process** (*bdnews24.com*, [29 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **JS passes Finance Bill with some significant changes:** Under the revised proposal, the tax-free threshold has been set at Taka 400,000 for FY2026-27 and FY2027-28, Taka 450,000 for FY2028-29 and FY2029-30, and Taka 500,000 for FY2030-31. The proposed budget had

originally set the thresholds at Taka 375,000, aka 400,000 and Taka 450,000 respectively for those periods. The minister also withdrew the proposed provision on the disclosure of investments, which had triggered public concern and misunderstanding. He said the proposal had been intended to protect taxpayers from complications arising because many land transactions are registered at mouza values rather than actual market prices. However, respecting public opinion, the government decided to withdraw the provision. Khasru also withdrew two other proposed measures that had created confusion among the public - making the submission of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) certificates mandatory for opening most bank accounts and requiring TIN certificates for the registration of partition deeds and property mutations. The Finance Minister proposed reducing the income tax rate for private universities from the existing 10 per cent to 5 per cent. He also expanded tax exemptions for indigenous communities in both the three hill districts and the plains by proposing that salary income, in addition to income from business, agriculture and other economic activities, be exempt from tax (Prothom Alo, [29 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM says Budget designed to benefit all:** Prime minister Tarique Rahman on Monday dubbed the proposed national budget for the financial year 2026-27 'life-friendly,' saying that it had been designed to provide relief to people from all walks of life. 'The budget we have presented, I would like to give it a name -- a "life-friendly budget", he said while participating in the general discussion on the budget during the second session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad. On the other hand, opposition leader Shafiqur Rahman criticised the budget for what he said lacking a clear road map to recover the estimated Tk 28 lakh crore laundered abroad during the previous 15 and a half years. He said that recovering even one-ninth of that amount during the coming fiscal year could eliminate the budget deficit. **Calling upon all JS members, including those from his own party and the opposition, he said that the budget should not be seen merely as a government financial statement but as a blueprint for national reconstruction.** Tarique urged that efforts should be made to ensure that no form of authoritarianism or fascism could ever be re-established in Bangladesh, adding that the country must never again be turned into a subordinate or dependent state. The prime minister said that the Jatiya Sangsad could work in unison on constitution amendments and other key issues -- in a responsible manner and in the spirit of the July National Charter -- while also engaging outside the JS in consensus-building and reform-oriented initiatives on matters of national importance (*New Age*, [29 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt backs pvt sector to drive 10,000MW solar power by 2030:** Power and energy minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood on Sunday said the government was prioritising private investment to achieve its target of generating 10,000 megawatts of solar electricity by 2030. He said that they were also accelerating new gas exploration onshore and offshore to address the country's long-standing gas shortage. Speaking during the general discussion on the proposed national budget for the financial year 2026-27 at the budget session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad, the minister said that the international bidding process for new exploration blocks was expected to be completed by November this year. Iqbal Hasan said that the government had introduced tax exemptions and customs duty waivers on solar equipment and batteries, along with tax holidays until 2031, to attract both domestic and foreign investments in the renewable energy sector. **He said that alongside solar power, investments would also be encouraged in wind energy and waste-to-energy projects. The minister said that despite the expansion of renewable energy, gas and oil-based power plants would need to remain available as standby capacity to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, given the variability of renewable sources. To boost domestic gas production, the minister said that the government had already issued**

international tenders for exploration in both onshore areas and offshore blocks in the Bay of Bengal. Emphasising regional cooperation, he said that increased imports of hydropower from Bhutan and Nepal through India could provide cheaper electricity for Bangladesh. He also highlighted the expansion of captive power generation in industrial facilities as a means of reducing production costs (*New Age*, [29 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **VEON proposes investment worth \$1b in Bangladesh:** Banglalink's parent company VEON plans to make fresh investments in Bangladesh and has proposed an initiative aimed at attracting US\$ 1 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) to support the country's digital and financial transformation. Founder and Chairman of the Board of VEON Group Augie K Fabela II said the company is prepared to serve as the anchor investor under the proposed "Invest in Bangladesh NOW" initiative with an initial commitment of US\$ 250 million as part of a programme designed to help attract US\$ 1 billion in FDI, according to a Banglalink press release. "Alongside our own investment, we will actively engage international partners to unlock Bangladesh's tremendous potential," he said, adding that VEON is fully aligned with the government's vision for digital and financial transformation and is ready to support that vision through long-term investment, innovation and partnership (*BSS News*, [29 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Japan discuss expansion of defence cooperation:** Bangladesh and Japan on Monday discussed the issues of mutual interest, particularly the expansion of military and defence cooperation as Japanese Ambassador here Saida Shinichi paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam. The ambassador led a three-member delegation at the meeting at Shamsul Islam's office in the Armed Forces Division (AFD) at Dhaka Cantonment, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate release. **Japan's potential technological assistance for the modernisation of the Bangladesh Armed Forces and the achievement of the country's "Forces Goal" was also discussed at the meeting.** The ISPR said both sides agreed to enhance training opportunities for members of the armed forces of the two countries, increase regular exchanges of military delegations, and strengthen professional and technical capacity-building initiatives. The two sides also explored new avenues for cooperation in the exchange of modern defence equipment and technologies. The meeting is expected to further strengthen the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Japan and deepen long-term strategic and mutually beneficial cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries, the ISPR added (*Dhaka Tribune*, [29 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **BGB sends two 'infiltrators' back to India from Sherpur border:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has "pushed back" two people to India after they allegedly tried to infiltrate through the Jhenaigati Upazila border in Sherpur. **Human traffickers tried to "push" them in through the Tawakucha border on Monday morning, said Lt Col Nurul Azim Bayezid, commander of the 39th BGB Mymensingh Battalion.** BGB members led by Tawakucha Border Outpost chief Habildar Mustafizur Rahman sent them back to the Indian territory through border pillar no. 1,097. The identities of the two people could not be confirmed

immediately. The BGB said that they are on the highest alert to prevent all types of infiltration, including human trafficking, at the border (*bdnews24.com*, [29 June 2026](#)).

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