

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

06 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **JCD-Shibir turf war spreads:** Tensions are escalating as confrontations between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir spread beyond Rangpur and Dhaka, with fresh clashes erupting in Barishal and Narayanganj, raising fears of an intensifying battle for influence on university campuses nationwide. The latest violence has left at least 15 more people injured. The flare-up unfolded during events marking July Mass Uprising Day, highlighting an increasingly violent power struggle. Since the 2024 uprising, Shibir has swept student union elections to establish a commanding presence nationwide, but a resurgent JCD is aggressively pushing back to reclaim lost ground. The current catalyst began on Monday at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, where activists clashed over a controversial billboard featuring Jamaat-e-Islami leaders convicted of 1971 war crimes. Similar billboard protests by the JCD had already triggered friction at Rajshahi University. **Senior Shibir leaders have posted warnings to Chhatra Dal on social media, though central Chhatra Dal leaders have so far refrained from responding formally** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [06 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **JnU Chhatra Shakti announces 5-point demand after campus violence:** The Jagannath University (JnU) unit of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti held a rally on campus today to protest an alleged attack by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on members of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, Inqilab Mancha and Islami Chhatra Shibir. **During the demonstration, the organisation placed a five-point demand, including punishment for those involved in the attack and a ban on the political activities of non-students on campus.** The programme was held in front of the university's main gate around 2:30pm. Activists of Inqilab Mancha also joined the protest. **The demands include identifying and permanently expelling those involved in the attack; arranging temporary accommodation on the university's seven-acre campus within six months; handing over all construction work of the second campus to the army; stopping the political activities of non-students on campus; and ensuring students' safety so that the university can reopen tomorrow** (*The Daily Star*, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Acting President says People won't allow return of fascist politics:** Acting President Hafiz Uddin Ahmad on Wednesday urged all to remain united to realise the aspirations of the July mass uprising, saying the people of Bangladesh would not allow the return of "fascist politics". He made the remarks at a reception and discussion organised for the families of July martyrs and July fighters at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka, marking the second anniversary of the July mass uprising. **"The Bangladesh achieved through the blood of martyrs must be rebuilt as a new country free from discrimination and rooted in democracy," Hafiz Uddin said.** Criticising the Awami League government that was ousted during the July uprising, he said, "We cannot become the Awami League, nor do we want to. Look at them, they have no remorse." **Referring to reports that Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina would return to Bangladesh in December, he said, "They say they will come in December. We are**

waiting. Come to the country. Inshallah, we will meet on the streets” (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [05 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **July Uprising was against corruption, oppression, says Shama Obaed:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said the July Uprising was not merely a movement over the quota system but a broader struggle against corruption, oppression and 17 years of enforced disappearances, killings and authoritarian rule. She made the remarks as the chief guest at a public rally organised by the upazila BNP following a July Victory Rally at the Shaheed Akramunnesa Girls’ High School ground in Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur. **“This victory does not belong to any individual or political party; it belongs to the country’s 180 million people,” she said.** Shama also said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is working to unite the people and advance the country’s development. The rally was presided over by Habibur Rahman Babu Talukder, former acting president of the Nagarkanda Upazila BNP (*BSS News*, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM warns against attempts to create instability, aid return of fallen autocracy:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday warned that attempts to create unnecessary controversies and instability in post-fascist Bangladesh could inadvertently pave the way for the return of the ousted authoritarian forces, urging all concerned to carefully consider the consequences of such actions. **“I would like to draw the attention of the people to one issue. In a Bangladesh freed from fascism, some are trying to create unnecessary issues and destabilise the country. We need to consider whether, knowingly or unknowingly, such actions are facilitating the return of the defeated, deposed and fugitive authoritarian forces,” he said.** The prime minister made the remarks while addressing a discussion titled “July 36” after inaugurating the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital on the occasion of July Mass Uprising Day (Dhaka Tribune, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rumen ‘Farhana says ‘During Hasina’s tenure, Tarique Rahman’s speeches were barred too’:** Brahmanbaria-2 MP Barrister Rumeen Farhana has questioned the effectiveness of restrictions on broadcasting ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s speeches, saying such measures are futile in the digital age. **“Today, everyone has access to media through their own devices. Anyone who wants to listen to a speech can do so. In reality, it is not possible to stop people from accessing someone’s remarks this way,” she told journalists after attending a reception and discussion programme marking July Uprising Day in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria today.** Drawing a comparison with the previous Awami League government, the independent lawmaker added, **“During Sheikh Hasina’s tenure, Tarique Rahman’s speeches were also barred from being broadcast. If that was not democracy, then how can this be called democracy?”** Asked whether Sheikh Hasina would return to Bangladesh, Rumeen said she believed the ousted prime minister would eventually do so (*The Daily Star*, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **‘Another revolution is approaching’:** Opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday warned that “another inevitable revolution” was on the horizon and urged his supporters to prepare for it. He made the remarks at a rally organised by the 11-party alliance at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram in Dhaka, marking the second anniversary of the July uprising. Addressing the rally as chief guest, Shafiqur said, **“Everything suggests that another inevitable revolution is approaching. I call upon all of you to prepare for that revolution.”** He said that, just as people from all walks of life, from children to the elderly, had taken to the streets during the July movement in 2024, the nation would remain united in any future

movement. The Jamaat chief also accused the government of “betraying” the people within months of taking office. Shafiqur alleged that his party and its allies were facing pressure, intimidation and inducements to compromise on their demand for implementation of the public mandate expressed through the referendum. He said his party would not abandon the demand under any circumstances and would go to any length, even sacrificing their lives, to achieve it. **Speaking at the rally, National Citizen Party Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari said, “History bears witness that Tarique Rahman will not remain in power. Tarique Rahman will not stay in power; his downfall has already begun.” Patwari said the “soldiers of July” could not be bought with “positions or money”. He urged party activists and supporters to remain alert and ensure their own safety** (*The Daily Star*, [06 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Controversy over documentary at July event sparks, NCP leaders walk out:** A chaos broke out at an event organised by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs to mark the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising. The programme, titled “Reception for the Families of the July Mass Uprising Martyrs and the July Fighters,” was held on Wednesday at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Agargaon, Dhaka, where Acting President Hafiz Uddin Ahmad attended as the chief guest. **Leaders of the National Citizen Party (NCP) alleged that a documentary screened at the event did not properly present the chronology of the July Movement. An argument ensued over the issue, after which the NCP leaders left the venue.** At one stage during the commotion, diplomats were also seen leaving the venue. The incident has triggered widespread discussion on social media. Several videos of the commotion at the programme have already spread on social media. **A video shows some of the guests present at the event protesting over the documentary’s portrayal of the One-Point demand and matters related to the Nine-Point demands. Writing on Facebook, he said that the documentary portrayed Prime Minister Tarique Rahman as the announcer of the One-Point demand. “Nahid Islam (NCP convener), who signed his own death warrant by announcing the One-Point demand, does not exist in the BNP’s version of history. Asif Mahmud (NCP spokesperson), who announced the ‘Long March to Dhaka’ despite knowing death was certain, does not exist in that history either.” Mahin Sarkar further wrote that because he protested against the documentary shown at the programme, the prime minister’s forces pounced on him. He said he was assaulted in front of the president** (*Prothom Alo*, [06 August 2026](#)).

◆ **President Hafiz Uddin ‘ashamed, pained’ by disruption at July Uprising event:** Acting President Hafiz Uddin Ahmad says he felt “ashamed, pained” by the uproar and walkout at a state ceremony marking July Uprising Day, warning that such disorder damages Bangladesh’s dignity. Speaking Wednesday at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, he said a documentary screened at the event failed to feature July Uprising icon Abu Sayed and late BNP chief Khaleda Zia. **He called the omissions “mistakes”, but said participants should have calmed down after Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Aazam Khan acknowledged the errors and apologised.** “Some mistakes were made, and the honourable minister admitted them with folded hands and apologised repeatedly. After that, everyone should have calmed down,” Hafiz said. **He called the continued disruption and parliamentary-style “walkout” at a national event “undesirable”.** Some foreign guests left amid the uproar, he noted, saying the incident had tarnished the country’s image. The documentary drew protests from injured July protesters, families of those slain and some NCP members, who alleged inadequate representation of key events and figures (*bdnews24.com*, [05 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **All Sheikh Family members abroad safely, many party leaders remain in prison:** 3 August 2024 remains as one of the most significant turning points in the history of the July Mass Uprising. That afternoon, at a rally attended by hundreds of thousands of people at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital, Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, announced the One-Point demand for the fall of the government. With this, the quota reform movement was transformed definitively into an anti-government mass movement. On the same morning, at a darbar (assembly) at Army Headquarters, opposition emerged from within the army to the use of force against people. Taken together, seeing the government's increasingly fragile position, Taposh, the son of Sheikh Hasina's paternal aunt's cousin, quietly left the country. Before and after Sheikh Hasina's fall, almost all of her close relatives fled the country. **All the important members of the Sheikh family managed to avoid arrest. Yet, during Sheikh Hasina's uninterrupted 15-and-a-half years in power, members of this family had been at the pinnacle of exercising power.** Nearly two dozen members of the family, or Sheikh Hasina's relatives, benefited from the government while serving as ministers, members of parliament, or in important party positions. In the controversial "Me and Dummy" election of 2024, eight members of parliament were elected from among Sheikh Hasina and her relatives. **Most close relatives are in India, while after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on 5 August 2024, a large number of former Awami League ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers, MPs, and central leaders were arrested in different parts of the country. Among them were nearly three dozen former ministers and state ministers and more than 50 former MPs** (*Prothom Alo*, [06 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Crimes against humanity: 502 accused in 71 cases before tribunal, 315 at large:** Six cases involving crimes against humanity committed during the July mass uprising have been adjudicated. The International Crimes Tribunal has sentenced 15 people, including ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to death. Another 46 people have been sentenced to various terms, including life imprisonment. Besides cases related to the July uprising, the tribunal is also hearing cases involving enforced disappearances, killings and torture during the Awami League's rule. Altogether, there are 71 cases. No verdict has yet been delivered in any of the enforced disappearance or killing cases. **According to sources at the registrar's office of the International Crimes Tribunal, 502 people have been accused in the 71 cases. Of them, 315 are absconding and 184 are in custody. One accused has died by suicide, while another has been granted a pardon. One accused has already served his sentence from the time of arrest until the delivery of the verdict. However, many of the 502 accused are facing charges in more than one case.** When a person is accused in multiple cases, they have been counted as an accused in each case (*Prothom Alo*, [06 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh urges ICC to remain within Rome Statute:** Bangladesh on Wednesday urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to strictly adhere to its agreed mandate and ensure that all its actions remain within the scope of the Rome Statute. Responding to a question regarding reported actions taken by certain countries against the ICC, a foreign ministry's official told BSS the Bangladesh government believes the court should carry out its functions in accordance with its founding legal framework. **"The ICC should strictly adhere to its agreed-upon mandate and ensure that all of its actions are within its remit,"** the official said. The official said the court should refrain from undertaking any action that falls outside the scope of the Rome Statute, warning that such actions could adversely affect both its member states and other countries. Bangladesh reiterated its position that the ICC should discharge its responsibilities

in line with the provisions of the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the court and defines its jurisdiction and functions (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Ziaur Rahman killing case: Prosecution seeks Facebook data of Mozaffar:** The prosecution has written to Meta seeking the Facebook and Messenger data of former army officer Md Mozaffar Hossain, who was arrested over allegations of involvement in the killing of late president Ziaur Rahman. International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Prosecutor and IT expert Tanvir Hasan Zoha confirmed the matter to *Dhaka Tribune* on Wednesday. **According to the prosecution, the request was made after investigators found evidence that Mozaffar had communicated directly with several individuals through Messenger and maintained contact with certain groups. Efforts are also underway to recover his deleted Messenger conversations.** Zoha said the information has been sought to assist the tribunal's ongoing investigation into crimes against humanity (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **BIDA chief visits Rajshahi Silk Factory, explores sector's potential:** Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun has visited the Rajshahi Silk Factory to observe its production activities and explore the potential of the country's silk industry. **During the visit on Tuesday, Director General of the Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board Toufiq Al Mahmud briefed the BIDA Executive Chairman on the factory's production operations, research and extension programmes, initiatives to develop Bangladesh's silk sector, and the overall condition of the factory, said a press release today** (*Daily Sun*, [06 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **FY26 foreign aid commitment drops 37pc:** Bangladesh's overall external assistance confirmation dropped by 37 per cent in the 2025-26 fiscal year, with India not committing even a single penny, officials say. The lowest-ever aid confirmation by two major development partners - the World Bank and Japan - also affected overall confirmation, they say. According to the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the development partners made a combined aid commitment of \$5.24 billion in the last fiscal year, 37 per cent down from \$8.32 billion in FY25. **Bangladesh's largest multilateral donor -- the World Bank -- made the lowest commitment of \$820.25 million between July 2025 and June 2026, while the largest bilateral one -- Japan -- committed \$314 million. Other key donors, including China and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), committed moderate amounts of \$279.84 million and \$250 million, respectively. The second largest multilateral donor -- the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - - made an impressive commitment of \$2.685 billion. "Since aid commitment by key donors, including the World Bank, Japan, China, India, and AIIB, was poor, overall foreign assistance confirmation dropped," says a senior ERD official** (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [06 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Taka among region's most stable currencies:** The Bangladesh taka remained one of the most stable currencies in South Asia and neighbouring economies over the past year, according to the latest quarterly report by Bangladesh Bank. **The central bank attributed the limited depreciation to tighter monetary and foreign exchange management, alongside the adoption of a more market-based exchange rate regime. However, a few economies, including**

Pakistan, recorded an appreciation in the value of their currencies during the period. The central bank's latest data showed that only Cambodia performed slightly better, with its currency depreciating by just 0.44 per cent over the period. **The report said the taka depreciated by only 0.59 per cent against the US dollar between March 2025 and March 2026. Among the peer economies, India recorded the sharpest depreciation, with the rupee losing 8.94 per cent of its value against the US dollar** (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [06 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt devises five-year strategic plan to help revive ailing jute sector:** The government has devised an ambitious five-year strategic plan to help revive Bangladesh's ailing jute sector after export earnings from jute and jute goods fell by nearly 29 per cent over the past five years despite rising domestic production. **The plan seeks to double the export earnings by 2031 through greater value addition, improved productivity, enhanced competitiveness and diversification of export markets, said a senior official at the Ministry of Textile and Jute.** The "Bangladesh Jute Sector Development Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2031)", prepared by the Department of Jute (DoJ), sets a target of raising annual export earnings from jute and jute products to US\$1.64 billion by 2031 from the current level of about \$820 million. The action plan also aims to increase raw jute production to 11.5-12.0 million bales, achieve 85-90 per cent self-sufficiency in jute seed production, and raise the share of value-added products in total exports from the current 45 per cent to 70 percent, said the official. The initiative comes at a time when global demand for the sustainable and environmentally friendly products are expanding rapidly as countries increasingly replace single-use plastics with natural fibres (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [06 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **MoFA says Hasina's remarks from Indian soil an affront to Bangladesh's sovereignty:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday said that ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks from Indian soil were an affront to Bangladesh's sovereignty. **According to a press release issued by the ministry, the event also constituted a grave insult to the martyrs of the July uprising, particularly as it took place on the second anniversary of the movement. The ministry said that Dhaka deeply regretted that, despite conveying its concerns in advance to the Government of India about the potential impact of the event on efforts to reset bilateral relations, the public interaction was allowed to proceed.** The press release reiterated that Bangladesh seeks to maintain a constructive, mutually beneficial, and forward-looking relationship with India based on sovereign equality, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and respect for national dignity. **However, the ministry expressed disappointment that Bangladesh's repeated requests for Sheikh Hasina's extradition under the 2013 Bangladesh-India Extradition Treaty have not received a response.** It added that allowing her to publicly address the media under any pretext had deeply hurt public sentiment in Bangladesh and undermined efforts to strengthen bilateral ties. **The statement further said that Bangladesh was outraged that Sheikh Hasina, an absconding convicted criminal, was allowed to participate in a live media interaction from New Delhi, where she and other Awami League leaders allegedly made hostile remarks against the Bangladeshi state and its people** (*New Age*, [05 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Khalilur says Bangladesh will never return to being a client state:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on Wednesday said Bangladesh would never again become a “client state,” stressing that the government’s foreign policy is guided by the principle of putting “Bangladesh First” and safeguarding the country’s national interests. **“Our government’s foremost foreign policy principle from the very beginning has been ‘Bangladesh First’. We will never return to the stage of being a client state—never. This is a great responsibility for us,” he said.** The foreign minister made the remarks while addressing a program marking July Mass Uprising Day at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka. The event was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Referring to the objectives of the July movement, Dr Khalilur said its achievements had placed a significant responsibility on those serving the country. **Echoing Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s remarks earlier in the day, he urged members of the Bangladesh Foreign Service to remain committed to ensuring that Bangladesh never returns to a position of dependency. “We are on the frontline in carrying forward the objectives of July. None of you should ever forget this responsibility,” he said** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Japan reaffirms support for Bangladesh’s stability, prosperity under partnership:** Japan reaffirmed its commitment to stand firmly with Bangladesh on its path toward lasting stability and prosperity, while congratulating the country on its peaceful political transition under Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Japan made the remarks in a message issued by its Embassy in Dhaka today, marking the second anniversary of the July Uprising. **“Under the Japan-Bangladesh Strategic Partnership, we reaffirm our commitment to stand firmly with Bangladesh on its path toward lasting stability and prosperity,” the embassy said.** The embassy also renewed its sincere condolences to those who lost their lives during the July 2024 Uprising. “We take this opportunity to warmly congratulate the people of Bangladesh on the successful political transition in a peaceful manner, leading to the elected government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman,” said the message. Japan reiterated that it would continue to work closely with Bangladesh under the Strategic Partnership to strengthen bilateral cooperation and support the country’s continued progress (*BSS News*, [05 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **July Mass Uprising Day observed at UN:** The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York on Wednesday commemorated July Mass Uprising Day with a reception attended by permanent representatives, diplomats, senior UN officials and representatives of other international organisations. Bangladesh’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during the July Mass Uprising, according to a press release received here this morning. Addressing the gathering, the ambassador said the uprising reflected the enduring aspirations of the people of Bangladesh for democracy, justice, accountability and human dignity. The permanent representative also reaffirmed Bangladesh’s commitment to democratic governance, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and strengthened international cooperation. A documentary on the July Mass Uprising was screened during the event, providing delegates with an overview of the movement and its significance in Bangladesh’s democratic journey (*Prothom Alo*, [06 August 2026](#)).



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