

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

27 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **President Shahabuddin resigns:** President Mohammed Shahabuddin has resigned from office under Article 50(3) of the Constitution. Ill health has been cited as the reason behind the resignation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin. He submitted his resignation letter to Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (national parliament) Hafiz Uddin Ahmad on Friday. **Addressing a press briefing at the Parliament Secretariat, Hafiz Uddin said he received the president's resignation letter at 5:01pm and accepted it in accordance with the Constitution.** Under Article 54 of the Constitution, the speaker performs the duties of the president until a new president is elected and assumes office whenever the presidency falls vacant. **While announcing the resignation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin, Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad also offered a personal assessment of the outgoing Head of State.** Assuming the responsibilities of Acting President under the Constitution, Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said, "I think, although he (Mohammed Shahabuddin) was elected during the mafia regime, he consistently expressed his support for, and respect towards, the government elected by the people's vote. I wish him well" (*Prothom Alo*, [24 July 2026](#); *New Age*, [24 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Opposition parties hail president's resignation:** Opposition political parties in the Jatiya Sangsad on Friday welcomed the resignation of Mohammed Shahabuddin from the president post and congratulated Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as the acting president. Some of the opposition parties, including the July uprising organisers-dominated **National Citizens Party, demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of Shahabuddin.** National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener and Dhaka-11 MP Nahid Islam alleged that the BNP government **"orchestrated" President Mohammed Shahabuddin's resignation as part of a "planned move".** "We have learned that the president has resigned citing physical illness. We believe the BNP government orchestrated his resignation according to its own plan," Nahid said. **Akhter Hossen, member secretary of the National Citizen Party (NCP), has claimed that BNP intends to provide a "safe exit" to former president Mohammed Sahabuddin.** He made these remarks as the chief guest at a discussion and cultural programme titled "Memories of monsoon revolution and building a new political trend," organised by the Islamic University (IU) branch of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti on Saturday. After Shahabuddin's resignation on Friday afternoon, the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami congratulated acting president Hafiz Uddin Ahmed. Speaking in a press briefing at the party office in Moghbazar, Dhaka, Jamaat amir Shafiqur Rahman said that his party would continue to support Hafiz Uddin during his tenure as acting president as long as he maintained **The opposition leader has said the resignation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin has finally removed the "dark shadow of fascism" from the country, though belatedly.** He alleged that Shahabuddin had remained silent during the mass killing of participants in the July 2024 uprising, failed to stop the repression, and assisted the then prime minister, Sheikh Hasina (*New Age*, [24 July 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [24 July 2026](#); *Times of Bangladesh*, [24 July 2026](#), [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Fakhrul dodges question on party or outsider for president:** BNP Secretary General, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, has said the party's nominee for the next president will be finalised

during an upcoming meeting of BNP standing committee. He made these remarks while speaking to journalists on Saturday following the conclusion of the annual planning conference at Bogra Rural Development Academy, where he attended as the chief guest. **Fakhrul declined to disclose whether a presidential candidate would be selected from within the party or from outside.** Moreover, he refused to comment on reports suggesting his own name was being considered for the position or whether he had any personal interest in the role. Prime minister's political adviser and BNP Senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on Saturday said that the party's top leadership will decide who will be the country's next president. Home minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said the government has found no evidence to support claims that recently resigned President Mohammed Shahabuddin spoke by telephone with deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while receiving medical treatment in London. He said he had seen the reports in newspapers but stressed that the government possessed no information to substantiate them. **Discussion has intensified in the political arena over the election of the country's next president following the resignation of President Md. Shahabuddin.** Although the names of several senior BNP leaders had been discussed for the post since the formation of the government, a few new names have been added to the list of potential candidates over the past two days. However, according to reliable sources, the shortlist has now become much more limited. **A source who plays an important role in policymaking for both the government and the BNP told Prothom Alo on Friday that the country's next president may come not from outside the party but from among the members of the BNP's highest policymaking body—the National Standing Committee**(*Times of Bangladesh*, [25 July 2026](#); *New Age*, [25 July 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [25 July 2026](#), [26 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Complaints lodged with ICT against former presidents Hamid, Shahabuddin:** Complaints have been lodged with the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against former President Mohammed Shahabuddin, who recently resigned from office. **The complaints were submitted separately on Sunday by two organisations—Bangladesh Azadi Party and the Rashtra Sanglap Forum.** The Azadi Party also filed a complaint against former President M Abdul Hamid. Following the submissions, Lieutenant Colonel (retd) Md Hasinur Rahman, Convener of the Azadi Party, spoke to journalists. He alleged that the two former presidents had remained silent while so many people were killed and forcibly disappeared up to 5 August. He claimed that their silence amounted to tacit approval of those alleged crimes (*Prothom Alo*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh Bank says it will not open new investigation into Shahabuddin:** Bangladesh Bank will not launch a separate investigation into former president Mohammad Shahabuddin following his resignation, the central bank's spokesperson has said. Spokesperson and Executive Director Arief Hossain Khan said on Sunday that no fresh probe was under consideration. However, the central bank would act if evidence linked Shahabuddin to any previously reported incident (*bdnews24.com*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shahabuddin accused in Islami Bank share scam while serving as president:** An Islami Bank share fraud case filed during Mohammad Shahabuddin's presidency has surfaced after his resignation, nearly 10 months after it was filed. The former president is among 20 people accused of conspiring to fraudulently acquire shares worth Tk 2.51 billion. Senior Officer Abdus Smad, acting on behalf of Islami Bank, filed the case on Sept 4, 2025, at the Senior Special Judges' Court in Dhaka. **The lawsuit names 20 individuals as suspects, alleging a planned conspiracy to acquire shares worth Tk 2.51 billion under the name of Brilliant**

Business Company Ltd through "corruption, fraud, and illegal coercion to loot and embezzle bank funds" (*bdnews24.com*, [26 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt may examine the allegations that predate presidency:** The government may look into allegations against Mohammed Shahabuddin predating his presidency, but actions taken while in office are shielded by constitutional immunity, two ministers said yesterday. Responding to questions about Shahabuddin's tenure at the Anti-Corruption Commission and Islami Bank before he became president, **Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed** said any allegations from that period would be dealt with under the relevant laws if formal complaints were filed. Meanwhile, **Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman** said, "Our government will verify everything carefully and take the right decision at the right time" Speaking at a programme in Chittagong, he said the government would give due importance to public demand while ensuring that no one is subjected to injustice. **Addressing reporters at the Secretariat earlier, Salahuddin said the government had found no grounds to act on the allegations against the former president, dismissing accusations raised by opposition parties** (*The Daily Star*, [26 July 2026](#); *bdnews24.com*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khelafat Majlis distances itself from Jamaat-led alliance:** Khelafat Majlis, a key partner of the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance, has decided to refrain from all activities of the coalition. **The party said the alliance had primarily been an electoral arrangement and had effectively fulfilled its purpose with the completion of the national election.** The decision was taken today at the party's third general session of its Central Majlis-e-Shura, held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium in Kakrail, Dhaka, according to a press release. The meeting was chaired by Khelafat Majlis Ameer Maulana Abdul Basit Azad and conducted by Secretary General Dr Ahmad Abdul Quader. **The party said that although it had participated in several alliance programmes after the election, it would no longer take part in any activities of the 11-party coalition. However, it said efforts to build broader unity "for the country, the nation and Islam" would continue if necessary.** It also said its members of parliament would continue to serve as the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad. During the meeting, party leaders criticised the government's handling of the July Charter and the February 12 referendum, alleging that the formation of a special committee for constitutional amendments ignored the referendum's full mandate. **They called on the government to establish a Constitutional Reform Council in parliament, fully implement the charter, and expedite the trials over the killings during the July uprising and at Shapla Chattar. They warned that the government would face "serious trouble" if it bypassed the referendum mandate** (*The Daily Star*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **11-party alliance falling apart:** Fresh questions have emerged over the future of the 11-party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami, amid the country's evolving political landscape following the 2024 mass uprising. On Saturday, one of the alliance's key partners, Khelafat Majlis, announced that it would no longer participate in the alliance's programmes. Earlier in June, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan had also declared a similar position. Meanwhile, Hefazat-e-Islam has launched an initiative to bring together seven Qawmi-based Islamist parties, fuelling speculation over the future of the Jamaat-led alliance. **Jamaat, however, insists that both Khelafat Majlis and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan remain members of the alliance despite staying away from its programmes. The party has also described Hefazat's initiative as a "government conspiracy" aimed at weakening the anti-government movement** (*The Daily Star*, [26 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **What Hefazat seeks to achieve with Qawmi-based parties, why Jamaat has doubts:** Doubts have emerged regarding the future of the 11-party alliance led by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. Khelafat Majlis, an important ally, has decided not to participate in the alliance's future programmes. Prior to this, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan has also taken the same decision. **Meanwhile, discussions have sparked across the political arena regarding an initiative led by Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh to form a new coalition featuring seven Qawmi-based Islamic parties. However, leaders of the involved parties maintain that it is premature to conclude that the 11-party alliance is dissolving or that a new political coalition is officially being formed.** Jamaat also claims that while Khelafat Majlis and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan are not participating in joint programmes, they remain within the alliance. As two member parties distanced themselves from the 11-party alliance's activities, the initiative by Hefazat-e-Islam to unite seven Qawmi-based Islamic parties gained fresh momentum. **Sources within Hefazat indicated that a consensus in principle was reached to resolve internal differences among the Qawmi-based parties and foster future cooperation. Written proposals have been requested from each party. Once submitted by 3 August, the proposals will be reviewed to determine the next course of action.** Addressing the recent stance of the two departing parties, Hamidur Rahman Azad, coordinator of the 11-party alliance and Assistant Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, told Prothom Alo that these parties remain part of the coalition and are represented in parliament, despite stepping back from joint programmes due to specific concerns. **Azad expressed suspicion that the BNP-led government might be covertly backing the seven-party initiative.** He alleged that, being unable to counter the opposition's movement democratically, the government is resorting to conspiratorial tactics (*Prothom Alo*, [27 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Arrest Hasina, 7 RAB members, 3 others over Ekramul 'crossfire':** The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Sunday issued arrest warrants for deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 10 others in a case over the alleged crime against humanity committed for the 2018 extrajudicial killing of Ekramul Haque in a reported 'crossfire' in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. The three-judge tribunal with Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury in the chair issued the arrest warrants for all the 10 accused. Three of the accused are already in jail in other cases while the remaining seven are absconding (*New Age*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Complaint lodged with ICT against 28 cultural figures over July uprising killings:** The State Dialogue Forum (SDF) on Sunday filed a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), accusing 28 prominent figures from Bangladesh's cultural sector of alleged involvement in crimes committed during the July 2024 mass uprising. Al Noor Mohammad Ayas, central member secretary of SDF, submitted the complaint to ICT Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam. **In the complaint, SDF alleged that the accused were involved in crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, including incitement to genocide, aiding and abetting, instigation and other related offences.** The organisation said it had filed the complaint seeking an impartial, transparent and lawful investigation by the ICT into the allegations (*Dhaka Tribune*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shafiqur Rahman says Jamaat not a 'party of angels', members can make mistakes:** Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said his party is "not a party of angels", acknowledging that its leaders and activists can make mistakes. **"We are human beings, and we make mistakes. We have made it clear that wrongdoing and Jamaat-e-Islami cannot go together. But that does not mean we never do anything wrong. We make mistakes, we commit offences and crimes,"** he said. He made the remarks this morning while

addressing the Dhaka district Jamaat-e-Islami's half-yearly members' (Rukon) conference as the chief guest at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) auditorium. He said the party has called on those who love the country and the nation to report any wrongdoing or offence committed by its members. "We promise that we will correct it," he said (*The Daily Star*, [26 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Nahid Islam says India's youth awakening continues July Uprising spirit:** The 11-party alliance held a divisional rally at Sylhet Alia Madrasa grounds on Saturday, 25 July 2026, to press for a five-point demand, including the implementation of the referendum's mandate and the alleviation of public suffering. **Speaking as a special guest, Nahid Islam, convener of NCP and chief whip of the opposition, congratulated the protesting students and youth in India following the reported resignation of Indian education minister. He described the global awakening of youth as a continuation of July Uprising. National Citizen Party convener Nahid Islam on Saturday warned that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party would face consequences if it forgets the July Movement, the youth and the 1,400 martyrs. 'The impact of the July Movement is spreading from country to country. Unfortunately, our government is moving in the opposite direction,' he said** (*Times of Bangladesh*, [25 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Uses of lethal weapons, helicopter firing during July Uprising remain unaddressed after two years:** Two years after Bangladesh's July 2024 mass uprising, key questions surrounding the use of lethal force by law enforcement agencies remain unanswered. **Allegations involving the use of 7.62mm ammunition, sniper rifles, helicopter gunfire, and armed men in civilian clothes have yet to be fully investigated, fueling frustration among survivors and families of victims, BBC Bangla reports. Although hundreds of people were killed during the movement, there has been no comprehensive national investigation into which forces used helicopters to fire on protesters, what types of weapons were deployed, or whether sniper rifles were used.** Officials at both the Ministry of Home Affairs and the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) have acknowledged that, apart from police weapons, they have not been able to identify the weapons, ammunition, or involvement of other security forces (*Daily Sun*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP tightens grip on EC, key institutions:** Having swept to power on pledges of impartial state institutions and clean elections, the BNP government has moved in the opposite direction, making an unprecedented political grab for the Election Commission (EC) itself. The latest round of high-level appointments cast serious doubt on the party's electoral pledges as it assigns its loyalists to lead 12 more state agencies. **With the EC gearing up for local polls, the government appointed Md Shamsul Alam, a former member of the BNP's own Parliamentary Constituency Delimitation Committee, as the commission's additional secretary, making him its second-highest administrative official. Shamsul took over charge on Sunday. Critics, including EC officials view the move as a blatant effort to stack the constitutional body with party loyalists.** Oppositions leaders warn that it severely undermines the constitutional body's neutrality and public trust. Shamsul's appointment came on 23 July alongside 12 other BNP figures placed at the helm of institutions, each granted the rank and status of additional secretary. Traditionally, almost all these roles have been reserved for career civil servants (*Times of Bangladesh*, [27 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Bangladesh gets lowest US tariff, retains competitive edge:** Bangladesh has secured the lowest tariff rate of 10 percent under a new US trade measure, helping the country retain a competitive edge over major apparel-exporting rivals, including China, Vietnam and Thailand. The US government on July 23 announced tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 on 60 economies representing 86 countries globally following investigations by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) into the use of forced labour. The new tariffs, ranging from 10 percent to 12.5 percent, took effect at 12:01 am [Washington DC time] today, replacing the temporary 10-percent global tariff previously imposed under Section 122. **Under the decision, imports originating from Bangladesh will face a 10-percent tariff, in addition to the existing Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) tariff rates, said the foreign ministry here today. Bangladesh is among only 17 of the 86 countries placed in the lower 10-percent tariff tier, a position expected to help preserve its competitiveness in the US apparel and broader export market** (*BSS News*, [24 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Efforts underway to procure two rigs to expedite gas exploration:** The process is underway to procure two rigs for the Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) to expedite gas exploration activities. **“We’ve finalized a proposal to purchase two modern exploration drilling rigs,” Petrobangla Chairman Md Abdul Mannan told BSS on Sunday. APEX currently has five rigs—Bijoy-10, Bijoy-11, Bijoy-12, Bijoy-18 and IPS-1, he said, adding, “After procuring the two proposed rigs, the total number of rigs will stand at seven.”** A Petrobangla official said the evaluation process is underway for the procurement of a 2,000-horsepower rig, while a Detail Project Proposal (DPP) is being prepared for the procurement of another rig with a capacity of 1,500 horsepower. He said that after the DPP is finalized, it will be sent to the Planning Commission for approval (*Daily Sun*, [27 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Chinese Economic Zone project to begin in Chattogram after a decade of delays:** The government will formally launch infrastructure development for a long-delayed Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone (CEIZ) in Chattogram’s Anwara, nearly a decade after Bangladesh and China signed an agreement for the project. **Officials and business leaders say the zone will boost industrialisation, draw foreign investment and create jobs, while strengthening Chattogram’s position as a manufacturing and logistics hub. The project is also expected to increase the value of the Karnaphuli Tunnel, Bangladesh’s first underwater road tunnel, and speed up development on the southern bank of the Karnaphuli River.** Business leaders have urged the government to provide adequate infrastructure, reliable gas and power, and a streamlined investment process with fewer bureaucratic hurdles to make the zone more attractive to investors. The government has allocated about 317 hectares of land in Anwara for the project, with an estimated cost of Tk 41.89 billion. The country will fund Tk 17.22 billion from its own resources, while China will provide loans worth Tk 24.67 billion. The project is due to be completed by December 2031. **According to BEZA, the development will include roads, a multipurpose jetty, gas and electricity connections, a central effluent treatment plant (CETP), water reservoirs, waste management facilities and other industrial infrastructure.** The project includes construction of a 1,235m jetty access road, a 1,181m main road, a water reservoir with a capacity of 20,304 cubic metres, a gas transmission line with a capacity of 4.24 million cubic feet per day, a district regulating station, a 25-million-litre-per-day central effluent treatment plant, a 20,000-tonne multipurpose jetty, a solid waste collection station capable of handling 60 tonnes per day, nearly 12km of boundary walls and two 33/11-kilovolt substations. BEZA estimates the project will create more than 100,000 direct and indirect jobs and attract at least \$500 million in foreign investment (*bdnews24.com*, [27 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, IOM launch €1.125m EU-funded South Asia climate-mobility initiative:** The Government of Bangladesh and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a landmark agreement yesterday to implement a €1.125 million European Union-funded project aimed at strengthening climate mobility governance, enhancing institutional capacity, and promoting regional cooperation across South Asia. The agreement, signed between the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and IOM Bangladesh, will implement the three-year project titled “Promoting a Comprehensive Approach to Climate Mobility in South Asian Countries.” **The project aims to strengthen climate mobility data and information systems, expand research and knowledge exchange, promote diaspora engagement in climate action, enhance community resilience, and foster regional collaboration among South Asian countries to address climate-related displacement and migration** (*BSS News*, [24 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Thailand likely to employ 10,000 Bangladeshis:** Bangladesh and Thailand have discussed the prospect of employment for around 10,000 Bangladeshi workers in Thailand following completion of necessary procedures, alongside expanding bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and tourism. The issue was discussed during a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir and Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Vijavat Isarabhakdi in Bangkok this morning, according to a press release. **The Foreign Affairs Adviser also sought Thailand's continued support for Bangladesh's inclusion as an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner.** In response, the Thai Deputy Foreign Minister assured that Thailand would continue its constructive engagement on the matter (*BSS News*, [24 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dutch FM praises Bangladesh government's reform measures:** Netherlands Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen praised the reform measures introduced by the new government of Bangladesh as the two countries discussed ways to further deepen bilateral cooperation. He made the remarks during a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman in Manila on the sidelines of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), said a foreign ministry's press release here. During the meeting, the two foreign ministers reviewed Bangladesh-Netherlands relations and discussed ways to advance cooperation across a range of areas of mutual interest. **Their discussions focused particularly on cooperation in the circular economy, legal migration and technology transfer for delta development** (*BSS News*, [24 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Foreign Minister says Bangladesh to work closely for stronger ASEAN:** Foreign minister Dr Khalilur Rahman has reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to working closely with ASEAN and its partners to strengthen regional cooperation in tackling emerging and transnational threats. Addressing the commemorative ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in Manila, he stressed the need for practical and coordinated initiatives to bolster global resilience against pandemics, climate shocks, cyber incidents and supply chain disruptions, said a foreign ministry press release. Dr Khalilur said joint early-warning systems, shared risk assessments and regional crisis-response mechanisms could play an important role in strengthening collective preparedness and resilience against such challenges. The foreign minister also outlined ways to address emerging threats posed by AI-enabled cybercrime as well as misinformation and disinformation spread through social media. Khalilur Rahman is currently visiting Manila to attend the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting and

commemorative activities marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (*New Age*, [25 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Khalilur seeks Philippines support for ASEAN dialogue partnership:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman sought the Philippines' support, as the current ASEAN chair, for Bangladesh's bid to become a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of the regional bloc. He made the request during a bilateral meeting with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro in Manila on the sidelines of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), said a foreign ministry's press release here. **During the meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed ways to advance bilateral cooperation across a range of sectors, including nursing, visa facilitation for medical tourism, business promotion and family reunification. Dr Rahman also sought the Philippines' support for efforts towards finding a sustainable solution to the protracted Rohingya crisis** (*BSS News*, [24 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Chile discuss opening resident diplomatic missions:** Bangladesh and Chile have discussed opening resident diplomatic missions in each other's capitals as part of efforts to deepen bilateral relations and expand economic and trade cooperation. The issue was discussed during a bilateral meeting between Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and his Chilean counterpart Francisco Pérez Mackenna in Manila on the sidelines of the commemorative activities marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on Friday, said a foreign ministry's press release here today. **They also discussed the import of critical minerals from Chile and prospects for expanding exports of Bangladeshi products, including readymade garments, pharmaceuticals, electrical goods and leather products, to the Chilean market.** Rahman suggested exchanges of business delegations between the two countries to identify new investment and trade opportunities and strengthen private-sector engagement (*BSS News*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM invites Qatari investment:** Prime minister Tarique Rahman has invited Qatari investment in Bangladesh through a letter addressed to the Amir of Qatar, as Dhaka seeks to further strengthen economic ties with the Gulf nation. Foreign minister Dr Khalilur Rahman handed over the letter to Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi during a bilateral meeting in Manila today, said a foreign ministry's press release here. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. During the meeting, the two sides also discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, reflecting the two countries' interest in further advancing their longstanding relations (*New Age*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UNGA adopts Bangladesh-led Culture of Peace Resolution:** United Nations General Assembly has adopted Bangladesh's flagship resolution, 'Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,' reaffirming the international community's commitment to dialogue, tolerance, solidarity and peaceful coexistence. **Introducing the resolution, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury underscored that building peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies requires sustained dialogue, mutual understanding, respect for diversity and steadfast adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter, said a press release received on Saturday.** He also thanked the member states for their constructive engagement and broad support, calling for renewed collective efforts to promote dialogue over division, cooperation over conflict and understanding over intolerance. Originally adopted in 1999 at the initiative of Bangladesh, the resolution has since served as the United Nations' principal

framework for advancing a culture of peace. It promotes the values of respect for diversity, tolerance, solidarity and non-violence while reinforcing international efforts to prevent conflict, foster peaceful coexistence and strengthen multilateral cooperation (*New Age*, [25 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shama seeks UAE support to address expatriates' ongoing challenges:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam expressed concern over challenges facing Bangladeshi expatriates in the UAE and sought its support in addressing their difficulties. She raised the issue when the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdulla Ali Abdulla Alhmoudi called on her here today, said a foreign ministry's press release [here](#). During the meeting, the two sides discussed a broad range of issues of mutual interest aimed at further strengthening the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and the UAE. The state minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring safe, orderly and transparent migration and safeguarding the welfare and legitimate interests of Bangladeshi nationals living abroad (*BSS News*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **FM Khalilur's visit sets stage for enhanced cooperation in years ahead:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman arrived in the Maldives on Saturday to pay an official visit, which is seen as a "significant milestone" in further strengthening the longstanding and cordial relations between Bangladesh and the Maldives. "The visit sets the stage for enhanced cooperation in the years ahead," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives. Dr Khalilur was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, Iruthisham Adam, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **The foreign minister is visiting the Maldives from July 25-27 as a "special guest" of the government of Maldives to attend the celebrations marking the 61st anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Maldives.** Dr Khalilur arrived in the Maldives via Doha from Manila, Philippines, a senior official told UNB. During the visit, Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Maldives Dr Mohamed Muizzu and meet with Foreign Minister Iruthisham Adam. This is the first official visit to the Maldives by Dr Khalilur since assuming office as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on February 17, 2026 (*Dhaka Tribune*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Maldives discuss direct shipping to boost trade, connectivity:** Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman discussed launching a direct shipping link between Bangladesh and the Maldives with his counterpart Iruthisham Adam in Malé. **The two sides discussed possible high-level exchanges and establishing direct shipping services to strengthen bilateral trade and connectivity, the ministry said in a statement. They also explored ways to expand cooperation in migration and expatriate welfare, tourism, education, health, the blue economy, and broader connectivity.** During the meeting, Khalilur reiterated the government's "Bangladesh First" policy and stressed the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries (*bdnews24.com*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Army chief returns home after five-day official visit to Turkey:** Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman returned home today after completing a five-day official visit to Turkey aimed at strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and military ties between the two countries. Upon his arrival in Turkey, the army chief paid tribute to the country's founding father and first President, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, by laying a wreath at his mausoleum, Anitkabir, according to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release issued tonight. During the visit, General Waker held separate courtesy meetings with Turkish Minister of National Defence Yaşar Güler, Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Selçuk Bayraktaroğlu, Commander of the Turkish Land Forces General Metin Tokel, and Director of

the Istanbul Naval Shipyard Rear Admiral Recep Erdinç Yetkin. He also met representatives of the Turkish Defence Industry Agency (SSB) The Bangladesh army chief was accorded a guard of honour at the Turkish Land Forces Headquarters. **The meetings focused on the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Turkey, bilateral defence cooperation, military training, defence technology, collaboration in the defence industry, capacity building and other issues of mutual interests, the release said.** As part of the visit, the army chief toured several leading Turkish defence and military technology companies, including ASISGUARD, Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAS), Makine ve Kimya Endüstrisi (MKE), SARSILMAZ, STM, ROKETSAN, ASELSAN and BAYKAR. During the visits, he was briefed on the organisations' production systems, research and development (R&D) activities, advanced technologies, innovations, defence manufacturing capabilities and future technology development plans. He also exchanged views with senior officials of the organisations on potential areas of future cooperation (*BSS News*, [26 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Indian national arrested with 11.8kg of cannabis at Shahjalal Airport:** An Indian national was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka after authorities seized 11.8kg of high-grade cannabis allegedly smuggled from Thailand. **The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) said the suspect, identified as Md Zulfikar Molla, 33, was detained on Friday (24 July) at the airport's arrival hall during a customs inspection in the Green Channel.** According to the DNC, a special team from its Airport Circle under the Dhaka Metro (North) office had been conducting surveillance at the Green Channel following a tip-off. Zulfikar, who arrived in Dhaka on a Thai Airways flight from Bangkok, was intercepted on suspicion. A search of his trolley bag led to the recovery of 21 polythene packets containing a total of 11.8kg of high-grade cannabis, which had been concealed beneath clothing (*Daily Sun*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB seizes Indian sarees, cosmetics at Shibganj border:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has seized a haul of smuggled Indian goods, including sarees and cosmetics, during a raid at the Shibganj border in Chapainawabganj on Wednesday night. According to a BGB press release issued on Saturday, a special patrol team from the Sonamasjid Border Outpost (BOP), under the 59th Mahananda Battalion, conducted the operation around 8:00 PM acting on a tip-off. **The items were recovered from a paved road in Pirozpur village under Shahabajpur Union, located approximately 700 yards inside Bangladesh from border pillar 185/2-S. The seized goods include 14 Indian sarees, 166 pieces of various cosmetics, 204 confectionery items and four kilograms of cumin. The total estimated value of the seized items is Tk 2,28,210** (*Prothom Alo*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB seizes smuggled goods in Kurigram:** The Border Guard Bangladesh seized a range of smuggled goods worth nearly Tk 3.2 million during separate drives in Kurigram border areas over the past 24 hours, officials said on Saturday. **The border force recovered Indian cosmetics, cumin, tree logs, illegal current nets and livestock, among other smuggled items, with a total estimated value of Tk 31,90,750.** The seizures were made during separate anti-smuggling operations conducted in the battalion's area of responsibility along the border, According to a press release issued by Kurigram Battalion (22 BGB). BGB said its members

have been carrying out regular operations to prevent smuggling, curb illegal border crossings and safeguard the country's sovereignty. The force is maintaining maximum vigilance and professionalism to implement its declared 'zero tolerance' policy against smuggling in border areas (*New Age*, [25 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BGB foils BSF bid to push 15 people into Bangladesh through two border points:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has thwarted attempts by India's Border Security Force (BSF) to push 15 people into Bangladesh through border points in Dinajpur and Jhenaidah, officials said. The alleged push-in attempts took place early on Saturday, prompting the BGB to remain on heightened alert along both border stretches. In Dinajpur's Birampur upazila, the BSF allegedly attempted to push nine people into Bangladesh through the Khiar Mahmudpur border. **The attempt was foiled by BGB personnel with assistance from local residents. In a separate incident, the BGB prevented another alleged push-in of six people through the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah.** The BGB intervened after detecting the move and stopped the group from entering Bangladesh. The six individuals are currently staying about 30 yards inside Indian territory near the zero line, the BGB said, adding that the matter has been communicated to the BSF (*Daily Sun*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB foils push-in attempt by BSF in Cumilla:** Border Guard Bangladesh foiled another alleged attempt by the Indian Border Security Force to push a woman and three children, through Saldanadi border in Cumilla on Sunday. **With the latest incident, the BGB and local residents have foiled at least 71 such alleged attempts by the BSF since early May, following the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the recent West Bengal polls, according to BGB officials.** The BSF members tried to push the woman and three children into Bangladesh through the Saldanadi border at about 10:30 am, said a BGB 60 Battalion press release. At that time, a regular patrol team of Saldanadi BOP deployed in the border area identified their location near the zero line. Later, BGB members immediately prevented the attempt. He said that the four individuals had remained at the zero line of the Indian side as of Sunday evening. **According to police and BGB officials, at least 2,366 people, including 126 Indian nationals, have been pushed into Bangladesh from India since May 7, 2025** (*New Age*, [26 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM, navy chief discuss maritime security, modernization:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff Vice-Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim on Saturday discussed maritime security, the modernization of the Bangladesh Navy, and ways to enhance its professional capabilities during a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Dhaka. The two also exchanged views on other related issues, Prime Minister's Assistant Press Secretary Gazi Shahriar Pamir said. The prime minister lauded the professionalism of the Bangladesh Navy and its role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty. He wished the newly appointed chief of naval staff success in carrying out his responsibilities. Vice-Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim expressed his gratitude to the prime minister during the courtesy call (*Dhaka Tribune*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique urges army to prioritise merit, leadership in promotions:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has called for merit, professional competence and leadership qualities to take precedence over political considerations in Bangladesh Army promotions. On Sunday, while opening the Army Headquarters Selection Board meeting at Dhaka Cantonment, he urged senior officers to keep promotions free from personal preferences and political influence. The selection board will review the professional competence, service records and other qualifications of officers in specific ranks, such as colonels and lieutenant colonels, before

recommending promotions. Besides national security, he said the force continues to make important contributions to maintaining internal law and order, responding to disasters and supporting the civil administration. The prime minister thanked Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman and all members of the force for their service (*bdnews24.com*, [26 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **1,350 bullet components recovered from drain in Ctg:** Police recovered about 1,350 bullet components from a drain in the Sher Shah Bangla Bazar area under the Bayezid Bostami police station in Chattogram city on Saturday. **Police, however, said that the recovered items were not complete bullets and could not be used in their current condition.** Chattogram Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner (north) Mohammad Hasan Mostafa Swapan said that the sack contained 1,350 bullet components. Of these, 1,230 were the projectile portions of small-calibre bullets, while the remaining 120 were the projectile portions of larger-calibre bullets. The police official said that the recovered items were only the projectile components of bullets, not complete rounds. Necessary examinations are under way to determine the exact nature and origin of the recovered items, while legal proceedings have also been initiated (*New Age*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **'Bomb-like object' found concealed inside umbrella near Motijheel metro station:** A bomb-like object concealed inside an umbrella was found near the Metro Rail station in Dhaka's Motijheel on Friday, prompting a security response from police. **The Bomb Disposal Unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit defused at least two suspicious objects, with loud explosions heard during the controlled operation.** Following the alert, local police and the CTTC bomb disposal team rushed to the scene and began the operation. "So far, two bomb-like objects have been defused. The operation to neutralise additional suspicious objects is still ongoing," Abdus Salam said (*Daily Sun*, [25 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pipe bomb near Rath Yatra route 'coincidental', says home minister:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed does not believe the pipe bomb found beneath a Motijheel metro rail station was planted to target the Hindu community's Rath Yatra procession. He called its discovery that day "coincidental". On Sunday after an event at the Secretariat, he said all agencies had worked in coordination to ensure the procession of the Hindu Chariot Festival passed off smoothly. "The pipe bomb was found that day purely by coincidence. I don't believe it had any connection with the Rath Yatra," he added. Police, however, suspect the bomb may have been planted to target the Rath Yatra and say its timely discovery helped avert a major disaster (*bdnews24.com*, [26 July 2026](#)).



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