

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

31 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **One country put every party in Bangladesh in its pocket except Jamaat:** Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman today said his party was banned during the rule of the ousted Awami League regime for “refusing to accept hegemony”. “Our only fault was that we did not accept hegemony,” he said while speaking as the chief guest at a meeting with the families of those martyred and injured in the July Uprising, held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) in Dhaka. He also claimed that Jamaat had been blamed for the recent youth movement in India. “You can see young people and students taking to the streets in India. The government there has said that Jamaat-e-Islami instigated the movement. Why are they so afraid of us? “One country had managed to put almost every political party in Bangladesh in its pocket, except one. That party is Jamaat-e-Islami. That is where the problem lies,” he said. Recalling Jamaat's role during the July movement, Shafiqur said the party had supported the students from the outset but had never claimed credit for the movement's success (*The Daily Star*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **DU suspends 3 teachers, relieves four others of key duties:** Three teachers of the University of Dhaka have been temporarily suspended, while four others have been relieved of all academic and administrative responsibilities over separate allegations of misconduct and irregularities. The university's Public Relations Office confirmed the decisions in a statement issued on Thursday, following a syndicate meeting held on July 28. The syndicate formed a committee, led by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Dr Abdus Salam, to review alleged irregularities in the university's recruitment process between January 2009 and June 2024 and assess the transparency of appointments. The deans of all faculties have been included in the committee. Another committee, headed by Pro-VC (Administration) Mohammed Almujaaddade Alfasane, was formed to review research activities conducted under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), funded by the World Bank and the University Grants Commission, during the same period and examine whether project funds were properly utilised. The Syndicate also decided to take action against individuals, groups and organisations allegedly involved in activities contrary to the spirit of the July mass uprising. It said further decisions will be taken after verification (*Dhaka Tribune*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Sentence me to death:** Former minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, who has been arrested in a crimes against humanity case, was denied permission to address the International Crimes Tribunal-2 (ICT-2). As he was being escorted from the dock to the tribunal's holding cell after Thursday's hearing, he told reporters, “I wanted to say, sentence me to death.” Latif Siddiqui was produced before the tribunal in connection with a crimes against humanity case over the killings surrounding the Hefazat-e-Islam rally at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel on 5 May 2013. A three-member bench of ICT-2, headed by Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, formally showed him arrested in the case and ordered that he be sent to jail. During the hearing, Latif Siddiqui's lawyer requested that he be allowed to address the court. After the tribunal rejected the request, Latif Siddiqui spoke into the microphone in the dock, saying, “My Lord, I seek your attention.” As he repeated the statement several times, the tribunal responded: “Who is speaking? Who allowed

him to speak? That's enough for today." Latif Siddiqui then said, "Alas! If this is the court, where am I to go?" Police officers subsequently attempted to remove the microphone from him, leading to a heated exchange between Latif Siddiqui and the police inside the courtroom. Later, while he was being taken from the tribunal's dock to the holding cell, a journalist asked what he had wanted to tell the court. Latif Siddiqui replied, "I wanted to say, sentence me to death." 'If I am hanged despite being innocent, we will accept it' (*Prothom Alo*, [30 July 2026](#)).

◆ **AL buried in Delhi after Hasina flight:** The politics of the banned Awami League ended when former prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country during the July mass uprising, Rashed Khan, political assistant to the prime minister, said on Thursday, claiming the party had been 'buried in Delhi'. Speaking to reporters after a views exchange meeting with government officials and local dignitaries at the Jhenaidah deputy commissioner's office, Rashed said Hasina's departure had fundamentally changed the political landscape. 'If Sheikh Hasina had not fled, things might have taken a different turn. But once she fled, I do not believe the Awami League can return to the country's political arena,' he said. Responding to reports that Hasina might return to Bangladesh in December, he reiterated that fleeing the country while leaving party leaders and activists behind had made a political comeback unlikely (*New Age*, [30 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Legal action will be taken if Sheikh Hasina returns:** Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman has said that legal action will be taken in accordance with the law if death-row convict Sheikh Hasina returns to Bangladesh. The minister made the remarks on Thursday (30 July) while responding to questions from journalists after the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on legal aid between the ministry, BRAC and BLAST at the Secretariat. Asked about Sheikh Hasina's recent interview in which she reportedly said she would return to Bangladesh in December, the minister said: "First of all, how do you know whether the Ministry of Home Affairs is trying to secure her extradition or not? It is certainly making efforts—I can tell you that." He added that even if a person sentenced to death is a Bangladeshi citizen, they have the right to return to the country and surrender in accordance with Bangladeshi law (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Mirza Fakhrul laments lack of desired change in state-administration, says 'nothing has changed':** Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has expressed disappointment that the desired changes in the state and administration have not materialised despite the people's sacrifices during the July Mass Uprising and the subsequent election. Sharing his experience of serving as the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives after the formation of the government following the 12 February election, Mirza Fakhrul said, "I see that nothing has changed." He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to mark July Mass Uprising Day. The event was held on Thursday morning at the auditorium of the Information Building in the Circuit House area of the capital. Expressing his disappointment, Mirza Fakhrul spoke about various issues. He said those who used to take bribes are once again finding ways to do so. Likewise, those who used to obstruct good initiatives continue to do the same. People are merely changing their appearance, he said, adding that many of those who have changed sides have now become the loudest claimants of being July fighters. The BNP secretary general said, "I am saying these things out of disappointment. I say this because I am old. I truly wanted to witness real change this time. So far, I have not seen that change among us." Referring to the persistence of the old administrative culture, the local government minister said it is not only the government or political leadership that must change;

every member of society must also change their mindset. Otherwise, he warned, the sacrifices of July would fail to produce the desired outcome (*Prothom Alo*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chhatra Dal files complaint against Nasiruddin, Sarjis and others in Habiganj:** The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has filed a complaint with police against 10 named leaders and activists of the National Citizen Party (NCP), including its Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary and Chief Organiser (Northern Region) Sarjis Alam, accusing them of theft, assault and causing injuries Iqbal Hossain Rokon, joint convener of district unit JCD, filed the complaint, which also names 40 to 50 unidentified people, with Habiganj Sadar Police Station on Thursday night, said its Officer-in-Charge (OC) Zahidul Haque. He said police will take further action after investigating the allegations. Earlier, on Wednesday, district unit Chhatra Shakti Convener Tanmoy Taher Rubel filed a complaint against JCD leaders and activists at the Kamaichhara Police Camp in Bahubal upazila over the attack on NCP leaders and activists in Habiganj (*Dhaka Tribune*, [31 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP convoy under fresh attack in Sylhet:** The convoy of National Citizen Party leaders came under attack in Sylhet's Golapganj upazila on Thursday, with the party continuing to face obstacles in observing its programme for the third consecutive day. Protesters hurled brickbats at the party vehicles when the delegation, including party northern region chief coordinator Sarjis Alam, was leaving the Golapganj municipality auditorium after meeting families of those killed in the 2024 July uprising. The windscreens of two vehicles were shattered and the police said that the leaders left the area safely. This was the latest in a string of confrontations facing the NCP's nationwide 'July March' campaign. Tensions ran high on Wednesday, when authorities imposed section 144 in Habiganj after the NCP and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, BNP's student wing, announced counter programmes on the same day, and NCP leaders were prevented from entering the town for several hours (*New Age*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **6 injured as BNP factions clash in Jamalpur:** At least six people have been injured after a clash broke out between two rival factions of the local BNP in Melandaha, Jamalpur, over early campaigning for the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections. The incident took place on Wednesday evening in the Char Gobindi Bazar area of Mahmudpur Union, where supporters of two prospective chairman candidates became involved in a violent confrontation, according to Melandaha Police Station chief ATM Mahmudul Haque. According to local BNP leaders and police, Mahmudpur Union BNP President Tayebur Rahman and Melandaha Upazila BNP Joint General Secretary Nure Alam Talukder Runu have both been campaigning for the chairman's post ahead of the UP elections. Tensions had been brewing between their supporters for several days. On Tuesday afternoon, supporters of Runu held an election campaign procession and public outreach programme before gathering at Char Gobindi Bazar, where they allegedly made provocative remarks directed at Tayebur. This sparked tensions, which soon escalated into a heated exchange between supporters of the two sides (*bdnews24.com*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat-led bloc calls 5 August rally in Paltan to press for July Charter:** The Opposition Alliance, led by Jamaat-e-Islami, has announced a major rally in the capital's Paltan area on 5 August to press the government for implementing the July Charter and referendum verdict. Plans for the rally will be finalised at a meeting on 3 August, Hamidur Rahman Azad, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, said at a press conference around 10pm on Thursday. The presser was held at the Opposition Leader's official residence at Mintoo Road in the capital. The 5th of August also marks the second anniversary of the successful end of the July Uprising 2024, and consequently

the second year since the fall of the Awami League authoritarian regime. The Thursday night presser followed a meeting at the residence joined by leaders from all the alliance members. In the meeting, the leaders also condemned recent attacks on key alliance partner, NCP, in different parts of the country allegedly by activists of the ruling party, BNP. Alliance leaders also called for the arrest of the culprits responsible for the violence (*Daily Sun*, [31 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shifting political battlelines: Why is NCP drawing BNP's fire?:** Although the ruling BNP and the main opposition Jamaat-e-Islami have largely been engaged in a war of words since the national election, the National Citizen Party (NCP), a partner in the opposition alliance, has faced several physical attacks. While sporadic clashes have taken place between BNP and Jamaat at the local level, no such major incidents have been reported at the central level. Several central NCP leaders, however, have been injured in attacks allegedly carried out by BNP and its affiliated organisations. According to a section of political analysts, the NCP has greater potential than Jamaat to make inroads into BNP's centrist and young voter base in the future. The emerging political equation has become a major topic of discussion across the country following a series of attacks and obstructions allegedly carried out by BNP and its affiliated organisations, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal, against NCP central leaders during the party's recent 'July March' programmes in Sylhet and Habiganj. The NCP views the attacks and obstructions as a serious threat to the democratic environment. Asif Bin Ali, a geopolitical analyst and doctoral fellow at Georgia State University, said the NCP may be attracting attention. He said Jamaat has an ideologically committed support base, while the NCP is seeking right-leaning young voters who might otherwise support the BNP. The NCP, he added, receives media attention disproportionate to its organisational strength, while Jamaat has been less successful in using modern media and shaping public opinion. However, he cautioned that this visibility is stronger in the media than on the ground, making it premature to conclude that the BNP sees the NCP as a greater rival than Jamaat. He said the ruling party must ensure peaceful political activity adding that provocative rhetoric cannot justify violence and that political speech should be answered with political speech (*Times of Bangladesh*, [31 July 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **No more unplanned power projects:** State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit on Thursday warned officials against taking up poorly planned development projects, saying taxpayers' money must no longer be wasted on unnecessary schemes. Speaking at two separate meetings at the Bangladesh Secretariat, the state minister said future projects must be selected based on necessity, feasibility and their contribution to public welfare, rather than repeating the practices of the past. "Like in the past, we cannot afford to waste taxpayers' money by undertaking unplanned and unnecessary projects," he said while chairing a meeting on prioritising unapproved projects under the Power Division. He directed officials to present complete information and proper justification for every proposed project before it is considered for approval, stressing that priority should be given to initiatives capable of delivering tangible benefits to the people and strengthening the country's power sector (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ADB appoints Qingfeng Zhang as Bangladesh country director:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Qingfeng Zhang as its new country director for Bangladesh. He started his new role in Dhaka on Thursday. Zhang will oversee ADB's operations in Bangladesh -- one of its largest country programmes -- further strengthen the bank's long-standing partnership with the

Government of Bangladesh, lead strategic policy dialogue with stakeholders, and guide the preparation of ADB's next country partnership strategy. "It is a privilege to serve as ADB Country Director for Bangladesh at an important stage in the country's development," said Zhang. "Bangladesh has demonstrated remarkable resilience and economic progress over past decades. A Chinese national, Zhang holds a doctorate in environmental engineering from Tsinghua University, a master's degree in water resources management and a bachelor's degree in hydrology from Sichuan University. He also completed executive education at Harvard Business School (bdnews24.com, [30 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **China celebrates PLA anniversary in Dhaka, vows stronger defence ties with Bangladesh:** The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka hosted a reception marking the 99th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), with senior government, military and diplomatic officials from Bangladesh in attendance on Wednesday. Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen hosted the event, which was attended by Defence Adviser to the Prime Minister Brig Gen AKM Shamsul Islam, Prime Minister's Adviser Md Ismail Zabiullah, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan and nearly 300 guests, including senior military officers, government officials and other dignitaries, according to a press release issued by the embassy. Speaking at the reception, Defence Attaché Senior Colonel Du Xincheng noted that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the PLA remains dedicated to safeguarding national sovereignty and maintaining regional and global peace. He emphasised China's "good-neighborly and friendly policy" toward the people of Bangladesh is committed to building a China-Bangladesh community with a shared future in the new era. China is also willing to expand exchanges and cooperation with Bangladesh in defence and other sectors, he added (*Prothom Alo*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"Many progresses made":** In Dhaka, US Special Envoy for South and Central Asia Sergio Gor has met with Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman. Officials concerned have indicated that discussions were held on strengthening bilateral cooperation between the United States and Bangladesh. Sergio Gor arrived in Dhaka today, Thursday afternoon for a three-day visit. In the evening, he met with the Foreign Minister at the state guest house Padma. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that after 6pm, the Foreign Minister and the US special envoy sat down for a meeting with their representatives. Later, Sergio Gor had a private conversation with Khalilur Rahman for about 20 minutes. According to diplomatic sources, during Sergio Gor's ongoing visit, discussions on Bangladesh's current foreign policy priorities, regional strategic positioning, and the future of Dhaka-Washington relations will be highlighted. Especially in the context of increased international interest following the Prime Minister's visit to China in June, the Foreign Minister's visit to Moscow in the same month, and the Turkish Foreign Minister's visit to Dhaka, Washington's evaluation may be reflected in this visit. If necessary, he may convey messages from President Donald Trump's administration to Bangladesh's leadership (*Prothom Alo*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh-US ties moving in positive direction:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman has said Bangladesh's relations with the United States are moving in a "very positive direction" as the two countries seek to further deepen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, migration and regional issues. "Our bilateral relationship is now moving in a very positive direction and we expect it to progress further in the coming days," he told journalists after a meeting with visiting

US President's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia Ambassador Sergio Gor at the state guest house Padma in the capital. The foreign minister said the discussions reflected the growing momentum in Bangladesh-US relations and focused on ways to further strengthen the longstanding partnership. "We had a very productive discussion. Bangladesh and the United States currently enjoy an excellent bilateral relationship, and we discussed how to take it forward," he said. He said today's meeting covered a broad range of bilateral issues, including trade, investment, energy cooperation and migration. "Given the nature of the meeting, we discussed these issues in broad terms rather than in detail," he said. The foreign minister said no discussion took place regarding Bangladesh's relations with China or India, adding that he saw no indication of US concern on those issues. Asked whether regional security and defence cooperation, including the proposed Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), had been discussed, Khalilur Rahman said they were not. He also said there were no discussions on the International Crimes Tribunal, the Awami League, the Bangladesh-China-Myanmar corridor or the ongoing process of lifting US sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion (*Dhaka Tribune*, [30 July 2026](#); *New Age*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **US eases Bangladesh travel advisory to Level 2:** The United States (US) updated its Travel Advisory for Bangladesh today, lowering the overall advisory from Level 3 ("Reconsider Travel") to Level 2 ("Exercise Increased Caution"), indicating improved travel conditions in the country, according to a Foreign Ministry press release issued here tonight. The government views the revised advisory as international recognition of its continued efforts to strengthen security, maintain stability, and foster an enabling environment for international travel, commerce, investment and closer people-to-people ties, the release said. It said the development also reflects growing US confidence in Bangladesh's overall security environment and stability. According to the release, the decision came after a productive bilateral meeting in Dhaka between Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and US President's Special Envoy on South and Central Asian Affairs Sergio Gor. Immediately after the meeting, Gor informed the Foreign Minister of the decision through a text message, the ministry said (*BSS News*, [31 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US deports 23 more Bangladeshis over immigration violations:** The United States has deported another 23 Bangladeshi nationals for violating immigration laws, with the group arriving in Dhaka on a special flight early on Thursday. The returnees landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport aboard an Omni Air charter flight (OAE2323), according to airport sources. Officials said the individuals had left Bangladesh at different times from 2014 onwards on work permit visas in search of better employment opportunities. They later travelled through several countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, South Africa, Brazil and Peru, before entering the United States illegally by crossing international borders. Although they were employed at various organisations in the US, they failed to meet the country's legal immigration requirements, officials said. They were subsequently detained by the US immigration authorities for violating immigration laws. On arrival at Dhaka airport, non-government organisation BRAC provided each returnee with Tk5,000 in financial assistance and arranged light refreshments (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **State minister Shama Obaed puts UAE visa cancellations at 626, not 5,000:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed has dismissed reports that 5,000 Bangladeshis had their UAE visas cancelled, saying the actual figure is 626. She spoke after an inter-ministerial meeting on migrant visa complications on Thursday, citing information from the Bangladesh Embassy in the UAE. "The figure of 5,000 being circulated is not correct," she said. The embassy said the cancellations were not Bangladesh-specific, with nationals from Pakistan, the Philippines, Nepal and other

countries also affected for different reasons. Shama said Bangladesh had already submitted 417 of the affected cases for visa renewal, with the remaining applications to be processed in phases. She identified forged documents as one of the main reasons behind visa renewals being rejected (*bdnews24.com*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Dhaka, Kathmandu discuss expanding bilateral cooperation:** Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Humauin Kobir and Nepal's Ambassador to Bangladesh Ghanshyam Bhandari today discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including trade, power, regional connectivity and tourism. The issues came up when the Nepalese envoy paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Affairs Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon, said a foreign ministry's press release here. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Nepal, as well as a range of issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral engagement and enhancing cooperation in trade, electricity, regional connectivity, tourism and other areas, recognising the importance of closer collaboration for mutual benefit. Both sides also expressed their resolve to further strengthen the existing cordial ties between the two countries through sustained engagement and cooperation across diverse sectors (*BSS News*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh gifts premium mangoes to Maldives on 61st Independence Day:** The Bangladesh government has presented premium-quality seasonal mangoes to the Maldives government as a symbol of the long-standing friendly and brotherly relations between the two countries. The initiative was taken to mark the 61st Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives and to commemorate the recent official visit of Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman to attend the celebrations. According to the press release, the premium-quality fresh seasonal mangoes were formally handed over to the Maldives government through the Bangladesh High Commission in the Maldives. On behalf of the Bangladesh government, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the Maldives Dr Md Nazmul Islam handed over the goodwill gift to Deputy Chief of Protocol of the Maldives Ministry of Foreign Affairs Badoora Saeed (*BSS News*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UAE President thanks Bangladesh, keen on early Dhaka visit:** United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has thanked Bangladesh for its solidarity following Iranian attacks and expressed interest in visiting Dhaka at the earliest opportunity. In a letter to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, the UAE President conveyed his sincere appreciation for Bangladesh's support during what he described as a difficult time, the UAE Embassy in Dhaka said today. Sheikh Mohamed also expressed heartfelt condolences over the deaths of two Bangladeshi nationals residing in the UAE who were among the victims of the attacks. He conveyed his deepest sympathies to the bereaved families and the people of Bangladesh. The UAE President reaffirmed his country's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding partnership with Bangladesh, particularly through expanded cooperation in the economic, development and humanitarian sectors. He also warmly acknowledged the Prime Minister's invitation to visit Bangladesh and expressed his keen interest in undertaking an official visit at the earliest opportunity (*BSS News*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Myanmar to take back 3 lakh Rohingya from Bangladesh:** Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday said Myanmar has agreed to accept 300,000 Rohingya from Bangladesh as part of the repatriation effort. Myanmar has also agreed to take back 5,000 Rohingya currently in Malaysia following negotiations between the two countries, he added. The

Malaysian PM disclosed the information in his speech while meeting voters in Chennai. The breakthrough reflected Malaysia's strong diplomatic ties with the nation, he said. He said Myanmar had also agreed to accept 300,000 Rohingya from Bangladesh as part of the repatriation effort (*Daily Sun*, [31 July 2026](#)).

◆ **India's parliamentary panel seeks fresh Bangladesh ties amid China concerns, water disputes:**

An Indian parliamentary committee has called for a diplomatic reset with Bangladesh, urging deeper engagement with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's administration while addressing concerns over China's growing footprint. The Committee on External Affairs, chaired by Shashi Tharoor, presented its 15th Action Taken Report to the Lok Sabha on Jul 30, recommending a "robust engagement" with Dhaka after the return of an elected government. The panel welcomed India's high-level representation at the swearing-in ceremony of the new administration, saying the political transition offered an opportunity to build a stable and mutually beneficial partnership rooted in the shared legacy of 1971. A major focus of the report was Bangladesh's growing economic alignment with China. The committee flagged Beijing's expanding presence in Bangladesh, including a \$370 million expansion project at Mongla Port, and warned of possible trade distortions for India if Chinese goods enter its market through Bangladesh. The panel expressed particular concern over Bangladesh's potential accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which could create a free trade framework between Dhaka and Beijing. It warned that Chinese fabrics and manufactured goods could potentially reach Indian markets through transshipment or value-addition loopholes under SAFTA rules. The committee recommended stricter rules-of-origin checks to protect Indian industries. The concerns come amid deeper Dhaka-Beijing engagement. During Tarique's recent visit to China, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and President Xi Jinping backed Bangladesh's application to join RCEP (*bdnews24.com*, [30 July 2026](#)).

Security

◆ **Alleged ARSA member killed in shooting at Rohingya camp:** An Alleged Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) member was shot dead by miscreants at a Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The deceased was later identified as Md Zubair, 34, son of Rahmat Ullah of Camp-8 West in Ukhiya. Ukhiya 14 Armed Police Battalion (APBn) commander and Additional DIG Mohammad Siraj Amin confirmed the incident. According to the official, the incident took place on Wednesday, July 29, late at night. Zubair was an alleged ARSA member living in block H/29 of Camp-8 West under the Irani Pahar Police Camp. While he was on his way to the local mosque, a group of terrorists fired around five rounds of bullets at him near Ibrahim's residence. After firing, the group immediately fled the scene (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).

◆ **David Emon planned to flee to India on Boro Sajjad's advice, police say:** Superintendent of Police Masud Alam on Thursday said detectives seek to interrogate Emon in custody for 10 days. Emon, also known as Mobarak Hossain Emon, is accused in at least 18 cases, including a high-profile double murder. He was arrested with three associates at Narail's Jhumjhum early on Wednesday. Masud said Emon was scheduled to reach Jhikargachha at 6am, where arrangements had already been made for him to cross the border and be received on the Indian side. Police also recovered an Indian identification -- "Aadhaar Card" -- from Emon, bearing the name Azhar Khan, with a listed date of birth of May 12, 1998 (*bdnews24.com*, [30 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Defence adviser directs implementation of 'One Rank One Pay' policy:** Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brig Gen (retd) AKM Shamsul Islam on Thursday directed the implementation of the "One Rank One Pay" policy for retired personnel of the Armed Forces Division and instructed authorities concerned to initiate the establishment of "Defence Colonies" to ensure their welfare and rehabilitation. The adviser issued the directives while visiting the Bangladesh Armed Forces Board (BAFB) headquarters at Kakrail in Dhaka this morning, read a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate. He said the government would implement the One Rank One Pay (OROP) policy to ensure equal pay for retired personnel holding the same rank, regardless of their retirement date, and stressed expediting its implementation. Adviser Shamsul Islam also instructed authorities to strengthen Armed Forces Board offices in all districts so they can serve as effective centres for retired personnel. He also put emphasis on integrated administrative and logistical planning to enhance their operational capacity as well (*Daily Sun*, [30 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh among 14 nations in Saudi-led maritime coalition:** Saudi Arabia and 13 other countries have announced a new maritime defence alliance to secure key waterways including the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. In a statement Thursday, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence said the Multinational Maritime Defense Alliance was established as a framework for collective cooperation among member states. The coalition aims to safeguard freedom of navigation and protect international trade and energy routes linking the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean., reports Al Jazeera. The signatories include Turkiye, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Pakistan, Djibouti, Somalia, Bangladesh, Yemen, Sudan and the Comoros. The ministry described the initiative as "open and defensive in nature," inviting other states to join once national procedures are complete. The announcement comes amid heightened tensions in regional waters. The Strait of Hormuz has been disrupted by the US-Iran war, while Iran-backed Houthi fighters in Yemen have repeatedly attacked vessels in the Bab al-Mandeb–Red Sea–Gulf of Aden corridor (*Times of Bangladesh*, [31 July 2026](#)).

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