

The Week from 13 July 2026 to 19 July 2026

Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has announced plans to return to Bangladesh in December 2026, despite facing a death sentence and multiple legal charges. Living in exile in India since her removal from power in August 2024, Hasina stated that she and senior Awami League leaders will voluntarily surrender upon their return to contest the charges and revive the banned political party.

Scientists have discovered a new primate species, the Likweli colobus monkey (*Colobus congoensis*), in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Endemic to Lomami National Park, the monkey is genetically distinct, features striking black fur with pinkish-orange lips, and has been recommended for Endangered status. Formally published on 15 July 2026, it marks Africa's fifth new monkey species discovered in 75 years.

INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth and final Project 17A stealth frigate, was officially commissioned into service at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026 by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders with over 75 per cent indigenous content, the warship features advanced stealth technology, high automation, and multi-role combat capabilities to bolster India's blue-water naval reach.

The Department of Telecommunications' Samridhh Gram Integrated Phygital Services Project was named a Global Winner at the WSIS Prizes 2026 in Geneva under the Enabling Environment category. Leveraging BharatNet digital infrastructure, the initiative delivers telemedicine, education, e-governance, skills training, and financial services through rural Samridhhi Kendras to advance digital inclusion across the country.

Spain won the 2026 FIFA World Cup by defeating defending champions Argentina 1–0 after extra time in a tense final at the New York New Jersey Stadium. Substitute Ferran Torres scored the decisive winning goal in the 106th minute, securing Spain's second World Cup title following their inaugural victory in 2010.

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled 'Peacko', the official mascot for the BWF World Championships 2026, on 18 July 2026. Combining elements of the Indian peafowl and a badminton shuttlecock, the mascot symbolises the nation's rich badminton heritage. The tournament will be hosted in New Delhi from 17 to 23 August 2026, marking its return to India after 17 years.

India introduced Awiqli, the world's first once-weekly basal insulin formulation containing insulin icode. Marketed by pharmaceutical firm Novo Nordisk, the drug is approved for adults with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Administered via a FlexTouch pen, it reduces required annual injections from 365 to 52 while delivering enhanced glycaemic control at a lower per-unit cost.

NSE Indices Limited launched the Nifty 500 Ahimsa Index, a specialised tracker targeting Nifty 500 companies that adhere to non-violence principles by excluding businesses linked to animal harm. Developed in collaboration with the Ahimsagain Foundation, the index utilises free-float market capitalisation and serves as a key benchmark for ethical ETFs and index funds.



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