

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

16 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **14 Chhatra League activists arrested over flash procession:** The police on Saturday morning arrested 14 leaders and activists of banned Bangladesh Chhatra League allegedly for disrupting law and order by bringing out a flash procession in the capital's Banani area. Banani police station sub-inspector Saiful said that a patrol team arrested them at about 7:00am while they prepared to launch a flash procession. **A case was filed against them with Banani police station under the Anti-Terrorism Act,** said Saiful, also the investigating officer of the case, adding that they were sent to the court. The police, however, declined to disclose the identities of the arrested individuals (*New Age*, [14 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BCL blocks highway to protest smearing of Mujib mural in Gopalganj:** Leaders and activists of the banned organisation Chhatra League staged a protest march and blocked the Dhaka–Khulna highway in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj on Monday (15 June), protesting the smearing of ink on a mural of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The blockade took place around 11:45 am on the Dhaka-Khulna highway near the Ratail Horticulture Centre area. A video of the incident has since spread on Facebook. **The video shows around 40–50 Chhatra League leaders and activists taking part in a procession.** They are seen setting fire on the road and chanting various slogans, while also protesting the defacement of Sheikh Mujib's mural with ink. The half-hour blockade disrupted traffic on both sides of the highway, leaving several vehicles stranded. **However, it could not be immediately confirmed who led the procession.** According to local sources, unidentified individuals smeared ink on the mural of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Kashiani Upazila Parishad premises on the night of 9 June (*Prothom Alo*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Fakhrul sidesteps question on Awami League's participation in local polls:** Local Government Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has dodged a direct question in parliament on whether members of the Awami League would be allowed to participate in local government elections. The issue was raised by Brahmanbaria-2 lawmaker Rumeen Farhana on Monday during discussion on a cut motion over grants for the Local Government Division in the 2025–26 supplementary budget. She said district councils were already being run by politically appointed administrators, and argued this went against constitutional rules that require elected representatives at the local level. Referring to the electoral timeline, Rumeen questioned when local government elections would be held and whether the Awami League -- banned from carrying out political activities -- would be allowed to contest (*bdnews24.com*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat MP demands government explanation on fiasco over advisor at Delhi airport:** Jamaat-e-Islami MP Saiful Alam Khan Milon has called for a government statement in parliament over the alleged “detention” of Prime Minister's Information Advisor Zahed Ur Rahman at immigration in New Delhi airport. Raising a point of order in parliament on Monday, he said Zahed was “made to wait for two hours” at Indira Gandhi International Airport despite proper diplomatic communication. “He was later allowed entry, but Zahed

ultimately returned to Bangladesh.” The MP said, “I demand a statement from the minister under rule 300 on what our diplomatic failure was in this matter and what steps have been taken.” Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said the issue did not fall under a point of order and could be raised through proper notice (*bdnews24.com*, [15 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **3 new unions ‘named after State Minister Shahe Alam’s sons and ancestral home’ in Bogura:** The government has issued a gazette notification creating four new union parishads in Shibganj and the newly established Mokamtala upazila of Bogura. The notification, signed by the Bogura deputy commissioner on 11 June, reorganised the administrative boundaries of five unions in Shibganj upazila and eight unions in Mokamtala upazila. After the gazette was made public on Sunday, controversy erupted over the naming of three of the newly created unions. The new union formed in Shibganj upazila has been named Mirbari union, while the three newly established unions in Mokamtala upazila have been named Simanta union, Diganta union, and Swarnagram union. Allegations have emerged that State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives and Member of Parliament for Bogura-2 (Shibganj), Mir Shahe Alam, named the new union in Shibganj after his ancestral residence, known as “Mirbari”. Critics have further alleged that two unions in Mokamtala were named after his sons—Mir Shakrul Alam Simanta and Mir Saklain Alam Diganta. The minister, however, maintained that the names were not chosen to match those of his sons. He argued that one union was named Simanta because it lies on the border of two upazilas, while another was named Diganta because of its remote location. The state minister offered a personal explanation on the floor of Parliament in response to remarks made by opposition lawmaker Shafiqul Islam during a discussion on a cut motion (*Prothom Alo*, [15 June 2026](#); [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **‘Catch them and inform us’: UNO advises local BNP leaders after BCL flash procession:** “Catch them, one by one, and inform us.” A video showing Netrokona's Purbadhala Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shafiqul Islam making the remark in connection with a flash procession by the banned Chhatra League has circulated widely on social media. Last Friday morning, several local BCL activists brought out a flash procession in Purbadhala. After a video of the procession circulated on social media, police conducted a raid that night and arrested six people. Some alleged that this kind of remark could encourage the tendency to take the law into one’s own hands and create the risks of “mob violence.” Later, a meeting was held at the UNO’s office with local BNP leaders and activists. A video of the meeting went viral on Monday morning. In the video, UNO Shafiqul asks the BNP activists, “Who brought out the procession?” They reply, “Chhatra League. We then brought out a protest procession.” The UNO responds, “Why are you holding protest processions? Catch them, one by one, and inform us.” In response, the BNP leaders said, “We have already handed over six people.” The UNO is then heard saying, “They brought out a procession... don’t you have local leaders? What are they doing?” (*The Daily Star*, [16 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Opposition alliance demands tougher govt action over border killings, push-ins:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance demanded visible and strict measures from the government to stop push-ins, border killings and torture along the Bangladesh-India border. The demand was raised at a protest rally held at Dhaka’s Shahbagh area this afternoon under the banner, "Immediate end to illegal push-ins, border killings and torture along the Bangladesh-India border." The alliance also called for a new policy approach to border management and broader bilateral relations with India based on equality, dignity and mutual respect (*The Daily Star*, [16 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **ICT-2 says July uprising a civilian movement, not armed campaign:** The International Crimes Tribunal-2, in its full verdict in the July 2024 quota movement's first martyr Abu Sayeed murder case, observed that the July uprising was essentially a civilian movement and a mass public protest, not an armed or militant campaign. The tribunal said that the presence of sticks, banners, or makeshift objects carried by some demonstrators for self-protection or symbolic purposes did not alter the civilian nature of the movement. **Such items, by themselves, cannot be treated as evidence of an armed uprising in the absence of organised armed hostility, a military structure or direct participation in hostilities, observed the tribunal.** The chief prosecutor of the tribunal, Md Aminul Islam, received the copy of the full verdict on Sunday (New Age, [16 June 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Restructuring economy is government's top priority:** Restructuring Bangladesh's economy by addressing its structural weaknesses, and battling inflationary pressures and global economic instability is one of the top priorities of the current government, says Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury. The government is working to reduce waste in government expenditure, reduce non-priority spending and ensure thriftiness in administrative outlay in addition to implementing election promises, he said during a discussion on the supplementary budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year in parliament on Monday ([bdnews24.com](#), [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Parliament passes Tk 56,117cr supplementary budget:** Parliament on Monday passed the supplementary budget of Tk 56,117 crore for the fiscal 2025-26 to meet the increased expenditures under different ministries and divisions. Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury placed the supplementary budget in the house on June 11 along with the national budget for the next fiscal year. **In the FY26 financial year, the total budget was Tk 7,90,000 crore in favor of 62 ministries and divisions. In the supplementary budget, the expenditure in 27 ministries and divisions increased by Tk 56,117.59 crore while expenditures in 35 ministries and divisions were cut by Tk 59,348.67 crore. As a result, the budget allocations for these ministries and divisions got reduced by Tk 2,000 crore and the total allocation now stands at Tk 7,78,000 crore** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt plans second Padma, Jamuna bridges with Chinese funding:** The government has taken initiative to bring in fresh large-scale Chinese investment for the country's infrastructure sector. **A list of approximately 20 projects, including the construction of a second Padma Bridge and a second Jamuna Bridge, along with various road and rail projects, has been prepared. These will be sent to the Prime Minister's Office. Sources said the financing of these projects may be discussed during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's upcoming visit to China.** According to sources of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, implementing these projects could cost several trillion taka. However, not all projects on the list are expected to receive funding, nor are all of them likely to be implemented immediately. Priority is expected to be given to projects included in the BNP's election manifesto (*Prothom Alo*, [15 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **FM says Delhi airport incident involving Dr Zahed unfortunate and unexpected:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on Monday described as “unfortunate” the incident involving PM’s Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman at Delhi airport and said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is taking appropriate steps regarding the matter. **"It is an unexpected incident, unfortunate, too," he said.** Talking to reporters briefly, he indicated that a statement from the ministry will be issued later on Monday (*Dhaka Tribune*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama Obaed calls advisor Zahed’s Delhi airport incident ‘unexpected’:** The incident at New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport involving Information and Broadcasting Advisor Zahed Ur Rahman is "unexpected" and "unpleasant", State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has said. Speaking to journalists at her office on Monday, she said: "We learnt about the incident through the media. **What occurred is unpleasant, and we do not expect such incidents to happen.**" **"Our ministry is looking into the matter and holding discussions. Once we uncover the full details of the incident, we will certainly take action if steps are required,"** she added (*bdnews24.com*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Indian acting High Commissioner summoned over PM adviser’s denied entry into Delhi:** The acting Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka, Pawan Badhe, was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday afternoon. **A strong dissatisfaction was expressed over an unexpected incident that occurred with the Prime Minister's Information Adviser, Zahed Ur Rahman, at Delhi Airport on Sunday.** Multiple senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the matter on Monday afternoon. High Commissioner-designate Dinesh Trivedi, who arrived here recently, is yet to submit his credentials. (*Prothom Alo*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Zahed’s ‘deliberate’ harassment is a Strain in Dhaka–Delhi ties deepens:** The harassment of Prime Minister’s Information Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman at New Delhi airport is being viewed as a deliberate signal from India that relations with the BNP government may remain strained. The incident has prompted a strong reaction in Dhaka, which has conveyed its displeasure to New Delhi through diplomatic channels. **Diplomatic experts argue that the explanation offered by Indian authorities does not fully justify the long delay.** They note that New Delhi had prior knowledge of the visit and that any administrative or communication lapse on the Indian side could have been resolved within minutes. **The treatment of the adviser could further complicate bilateral relations, which had remained particularly close during the Awami League’s tenure.** The incident happened when hundreds of Awami League leaders and activists are taking shelter in India since 2024, without any valid documents. Diplomatic sources said Indian authorities later cited an apparent administrative error for the delay, saying that the PM’s adviser had previously been placed on an Indian watchlist because of his activism against the Hasina government. Although his name had reportedly been removed from a social media-related blacklist, it allegedly remained on an immigration watchlist, triggering an alert upon arrival. Indian authorities, which had two days to clear his name from the immigration watchlist and ensured his smooth entry to India. **Eventually, they did it after the harassment of the adviser at the airport, which experts believe “intentional”** (*Times of Bangladesh*, [16 June 2026](#)).



Security

- ◆ **BSF takes back 12 migrants after three-day standoff at Kushtia zero line:** India's Border Security Force (BSF) has taken back 12 people who were stranded at the zero line following an attempted "push-in" at the Kushtia's Daulatpur border. The move came around 10:30am on Monday after a flag meeting between the BSF and the Border Guard Bangladesh at the Pragpur border, said BGB's Lt Col Rashed Kamal Rony, commander of Kushtia-47 BGB. The BGB said the 12 people, including four children and as many women, were pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF in the early hours of Friday. The two border forces held a meeting on Saturday morning but failed to reach a consensus. **Meanwhile, the 12 people spent 78 hours under the open sky amid growing uncertainty.** Lt Col Rony said they were handed over to the BSF through the second flag meeting with the BSF at 10:30am on Monday. Later, the BSF took the 12 people into their custody and transported them back into the Indian territory (*bdnews24.com*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BSF explodes crude bombs after push-in bids foiled :** The Indian Border Security Force reportedly exploded two crude bombs after members of the Border Guard Bangladesh and local people foiled its push-in bids at Azizpur border point under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district on Sunday night. With the latest incident, BGB personnel and local residents have foiled at least 47 alleged push-in attempts by the BSF since early May, following the Indian Bharatiya Janata Party's assumption of power in the West Bengal state, according to BGB officials (*New Age*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Coast Guard recovers grenades, bullets at Teknaf:** The Bangladesh Coast Guard recovered 10 fresh grenades, 28 rounds of fresh bullets and seized 2kg of hemp in an operation at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on Saturday night. Coast Guard media officer Lieutenant Commander Sabbir Alam Suzan in a press release on Sunday said that a group of 'armed criminal groups' in the area adjacent to the Naf River in Jadimura under Teknaf was storing a large amount of fresh bullets and grenades underground for transportation using the Bangladesh border. **Based on the information, Coast Guard station Teknaf conducted the special operation in the area and recovered the grenades, live ammunition used by the 'Myanmar military', which was specially hidden underground.** The Coast Guard's intelligence surveillance, however, is continuing to arrest the relevant members of the 'criminal groups' active in the territory of Bangladesh (*New Age*, [15 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **New Rohingya arrivals in Bangladesh exceed 152,000:** The number of newly arrived registered Rohingya in Bangladesh stood at 152,029 from December 2024 to May 31 this

year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said. Of them, 2,260 were registered as new arrivals last month. The total stood at 149,769 in March. UNHCR said 1,197,411 Rohingya have been identified in the camps. The agency said thousands of people have been killed since 2024 due to targeted violence and persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine State, forcing Rohingya to seek safety in Bangladesh (*New Age*, [15 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Arakan Army detains 7 Bangladeshi fishermen off Teknaf:** Seven Bangladeshi fishermen were taken away along with two fishing trawlers by Myanmar's armed group Arakan Army while they were fishing in the Bay of Bengal and the Naf River estuary at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on Monday morning. Teknaf upazila nirbahi officer SM Anik Chowdhury confirmed the incident. He said that the fishermen were believed to have unintentionally entered Myanmar waters after which they were detained. He also added that the Border Guard Bangladesh, Coast Guard and local administration were working together to ensure their safe and quick return (*New Age*, [16 June 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 Sanyal]