

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

19 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Activity-banned AL holds rally in the capital, 4 detained:** In the capital's Mohakhali, leaders and activists of the Awami League and its allied organisations (whose activities now banned) have held a surprise procession on Thursday. During this time, there were also incidents of cocktail explosions. In connection with this incident, Tejgaon Industrial Area police detained four people, including one woman. According to eyewitnesses and police sources, around 9 AM today, leaders and activists of the Awami League, as well as the banned Chhatra League and Jubo League, gathered in front of ICDDRDB (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) in Mohakhali. They demanded punishment for former interim government chief adviser Dr Yunus and health adviser Nurjahan Begum for children's death in measles virus (*Prothom Alo*, [18 June 2026](#); *Kaler Kantha*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hefazat activist tells ICT of 13-month secret detention:** A Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh activist and former madrassah teacher told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Thursday that he had been held for about 13 months in a series of alleged secret detention centres run by the Joint Interrogation Cell at the headquarters of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence after being picked up by unidentified men in November 2015. Md Tajul Islam Sumon, 39, from Saltha upazila in Faridpur, made the allegations before the three-judge tribunal chaired by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder while testifying in a crimes against humanity case involving enforced disappearances against 12 individuals. A Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh activist and former madrassah teacher told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Thursday that he had been held for about 13 months in a series of alleged secret detention centres run by the Joint Interrogation Cell at the headquarters of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence after being picked up by unidentified men in November 2015. Md Tajul Islam Sumon, 39, from Saltha upazila in Faridpur, made the allegations before the three-judge tribunal chaired by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder while testifying in a crimes against humanity case involving enforced disappearances against 12 individuals (*New Age*, [19 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **13,324 July warriors receive monthly honorarium:** Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan on Thursday told Parliament that **13,324 July warriors are now receiving monthly honorarium**, and the process of bringing the remaining July fighters under the allowance program is underway. “**Out of the total 14,369 people gazetted as July Warriors, 13,344 are being given a monthly allowance (Tk20,000 per person for A-class, Tk15,000 per person for B-class, Tk10,000 per person for C-class) through their own bank accounts.** The process of giving the allowance to the remaining July Warriors is underway,” he said. The minister said this while replying to a scripted question from opposition lawmaker Rokeya Begum (Women Seat-45) in the House. In reply to a starred question from treasury bench member Mostafizur Rahman Babul (Jamalpur-3), the Liberation War Affairs Minister said **478 names have already been removed from the list of freedom fighters**. Responding to another starred question from ruling party lawmaker Ruhul Amin Dulal (Pirojpur-3), the Liberation War Affairs Minister said the **names of 6,787 martyred freedom fighters were included in the Bangladesh gazette** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Speaker expunges remarks on Khelafat Majlish chief Mamunul:** Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed on Thursday ordered remarks on Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish chief Mamunul Haque be expunged from the parliamentary record, saying that the matter did not need to be included in the proceedings of the House. The issue arose during a debate on the proposed national budget for the financial year 2026-27 when **Bangladesh Nationalist Party lawmaker Khondkar Abu Ashfaq referred to a controversy involving Mamunul Haque during the tenure of the Awami League government.** Speaking in Jatiya Sangsad, Abu Ashfaq said that Mamunul Haque had been making a number of statements and had claimed that he would bring down the government over the budget issue and bring about major political changes. But what exactly was the incident when he was found with a woman in the name of a temporary marriage, he questioned. The speaker subsequently cautioned Members of Parliament against raising irrelevant matters and making allegations against individuals who were not present in the House to respond. Deputy opposition leader Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher raised a point of order, arguing that the information presented about Mamunul Haque was inaccurate. Taher also requested that the remarks be removed from the parliamentary record. Chief whip Nurul Islam also urged the speaker to expunge comments that were unparliamentary or inappropriate. **Accepting the request, the speaker ruled that the matter should not form part of the official proceedings** (*New Age*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pakistan High Commissioner Meets with Opposition Leader:** Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Imran Haider, held a courtesy meeting with opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Dr. Shafiqur Rahman on Thursday in the opposition leader's office at the National Parliament building. Pakistan's Political Counselor Kamran Dangal also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the High Commissioner stated that Pakistan wishes to advance bilateral relations with Bangladesh from a forward-looking perspective. **He noted that Bangladesh-Pakistan relations have been progressing positively in recent times, with increased trade volume between the two countries. Multiple visits by military and civilian officials have taken place, and a delegation of Bangladeshi educators recently visited Pakistan and expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's advanced education infrastructure. The High Commissioner informed the opposition leader about the success of an education fair held in Dhaka last month. He announced that Pakistan will provide scholarships to 500 Bangladeshi students over the next five years in phases, with 74 already having gone to Pakistan. Ongoing efforts are underway to increase academic exchanges between universities of both countries. The High Commissioner called for forming a parliamentary group and strengthening bilateral relations at the parliamentary level. During the discussion, the opposition leader thanked the Pakistani government through the High Commissioner for Pakistan's historic role in facilitating the peace agreement between the United States and Iran** (*Amar Desh*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **VFGB Delegation Meets with Opposition Leader:** A delegation led by Voice for Global Bangladeshis (VFGB) President Professor Dr. Hasanat M. Husain and other officials held a courtesy meeting with opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Dr. Shafiqur Rahman on Thursday in the opposition leader's office at the National Parliament building. **The delegation extensively discussed the opportunities, challenges, and potential regarding the welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates living in various countries worldwide. During the meeting, opposition leader Dr. Shafiqur Rahman praised the significant contributions of expatriate Bangladeshis to the country's economy, development, and Bangladesh's international image. He assured the delegation that he would play a positive role in safeguarding expatriate welfare and rights and addressing their legitimate demands** (*Amar Desh*, [18 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **EU commits \$16mn for Rohingya response as 2026 plan requires \$710mn:** The European Union (EU) has pledged an additional 14 million euros (about \$16 million) for Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, adding to international support for a humanitarian response that requires more than \$710 million this year alone. The new funding of 14 million euros, equivalent to roughly \$16 million, was announced on Thursday under a renewed partnership between the European Union and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). It comes as aid agencies seek \$710.5 million in 2026 to support 1.6 million people, including Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char and Bangladeshi host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf (*bdnews24.com*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Envoy urges expanded Japanese investment in Bangladesh:** Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Md. Daud Ali urged Japanese investors to expand investment in Bangladesh, highlighting attractive incentives, world-class infrastructure and the country's growing economic potential. The call came at a Bangladesh Business Seminar held at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo to promote bilateral trade and investment, according to a press release received here. The seminar was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Embassy in Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), bringing together Japanese business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, government officials and representatives from various sectors (*BSS News*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Azerbaijan to open resident missions soon:** Bangladesh and Azerbaijan agreed to open resident diplomatic missions in each other's capitals as the two countries move to deepen bilateral relations and expand diplomatic engagement. The decision was taken during a telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov this afternoon, according to a press release. During the conversation, Bayramov warmly congratulated Rahman on his election as President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. **The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in different areas of mutual interest between the two friendly countries, the release said. They also discussed the opening of resident diplomatic missions in their respective countries, a move expected to facilitate closer political, economic and people-to-people relations.** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, China seek greater cooperation in trade, investment, technical education:** Bangladesh and China on Thursday stressed the importance of expanding cooperation in trade and commerce, investment, technical education and people-to-people exchanges. The two sides discussed the issues when Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at his National Parliament office, according to press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chinese envoy congratulated Bangladesh on the election of Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman as president of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Humaiun Kabir were present at the meeting (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh calls for global action on Rohingya repatriation:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has called for stronger international action to protect civilians, uphold international humanitarian law and ensure sustained global support for the safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar. She made the call while speaking at a high-level panel discussion of the 2026 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs Segment at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Thursday, according to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN. **The state minister stressed the need for accountability for violations of international humanitarian law, greater investment in conflict prevention and stronger coordination among humanitarian, peace and development actors. She also highlighted the critical role of women in peacebuilding and humanitarian operations and expressed concern over the growing impact of digital harassment, disinformation and cyber abuse targeting women and girls.** Shama Obaed reiterated her call for a global platform to address technology-enabled violence (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pakistan High Commission, Dhaka hosts 3rd Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament:** The High Commission for Pakistan in Dhaka hosted the 3rd Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament on Thursday in collaboration with the Bangladesh Chess Federation, bringing together more than 200 players from diverse backgrounds. The tournament was organized to honor Pakistani chess legend Mian Sultan Khan, a three-time British Chess Champion. Participants included diplomats, professionals, Bangladesh national chess players, students and chess enthusiasts, reflecting Bangladesh's strong passion for the game. High Commissioner of Pakistan H E Imran Haider expressed gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Chess Federation for their support in organizing the tournament. **He also thanked Dr Mahdi Amin for attending the event and said such collaborative, healthy and competitive platforms could help strengthen people-to-people linkages, bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Bangladesh** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **IOM reaffirms support for Bangladesh's regular migration pathways:** The newly appointed Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bangladesh, Dr Laura Tomm Bonde, on Thursday reaffirmed the **organization's commitment to supporting Bangladesh in expanding regular migration pathways and promoting whole-of-government and regional approaches to climate mobility.** Presenting her credentials to Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, she said she looked forward to working closely with the government to ensure the protection of migrants' rights and to make migration contribute meaningfully to sustainable development through well-governed and inclusive migration systems (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Army Chief asks new officers to devote themselves to protecting country's independence, sovereignty:** Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman has called upon newly commissioned officers to carry out their responsibilities of protecting the country's independence and sovereignty with dedication, integrity and professionalism. He came up with the call today while addressing the President's Parade as the chief guest at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) in Bhatiary, Chattogram, marking the commissioning of officer cadets of the 90th BMA Long Course, according to an ISPR release. **After completing three years of training, 184 officer cadets from the 90th BMA Long Course were commissioned into the Bangladesh Army.** Besides, seven foreign cadets – four from Palestine, one from Tanzania, one of Zambia and another one from the Maldives - successfully completed the

training, said the release. Later, the army chief inaugurated the '2nd Bangladesh Battalion' at BMA. This battalion has been established alongside the '1st Bangladesh Battalion' with the objective of improving the professional skills, leadership capabilities, and overall training quality of officer cadets at BMA to effectively meet future challenges (*Prothom Alo*, [18 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Tarique tells SSF not to let security cordon isolate head of government from citizens:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has told the Special Security Force (SSF) to make sure the security cordon does not isolate the head of government from the citizens. **Marking the 40th founding anniversary of the SSF at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday, the premier also advised the force to ensure "respectful behaviour" towards the common people while providing security to "important persons".** Before the event, the prime minister inaugurated a new firing range of the SSF. The SSF provides protection to the president, the prime minister, and anyone designated as a VVIP as per state protocol, including visiting foreign dignitaries (*bdnews24.com*, [18 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Attempt to Push-in Four People at Buripota Border:** Indian Border Security Force (BSF) attempted to push-in four people across the border at the Khalapara area of Buripota BOP (Border Outpost) in Meherpur Sadar Upazila on Friday morning. **Locals spotted four individuals (one man, three woman) on the other side of the 116th international pillar along the zero line (neutral zone) of the border. Upon receiving information, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rushed to the scene and took a firm stance, preventing the individuals from entering Bangladeshi territory. Currently, they remain in the no-man's-land on this side of the barbed wire fence.** BGB-6 Commander Nazmul Hassan confirmed the incident, stating that early Friday morning. Upon receiving the news, members of the Babibanka BGB camp successfully prevented them from crossing. Currently, both BGB personnel and villagers remain on high alert (*Naya Diganta*, [19 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Indian Drug Trafficker Arrested at Barlekha Border:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has arrested an Indian drug trafficker named Mo. Ali Hossain (32) from the Barlekha border area of Maulvibazar. According to BGB sources, based on confidential intelligence about illegal infiltration by an Indian drug smuggler, BGB conducted a special operation in the Boscimtila BOP area of Barlekha Upazila. **During the operation, Ali Hossain was apprehended from the Madhobkund area inside Bangladesh, approximately three kilometers from border pillar 1389/M.** Various Indian identity documents and an Aadhar card were seized from him. During interrogation, Ali Hossain allegedly confessed to his involvement in border smuggling activities. **Lieutenant Colonel Ataur Rahman, Commander of BGB-52 Battalion, stated that preliminary evidence suggests the arrested person is involved in border smuggling** (*Naya Diganta*, [19 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**]*