

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

17 July 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Jamaat chief says India's refusal to invite Jamaat won't deter the party:** Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Shafiqur Rahman on Thursday said **India has invited almost every major political party in Bangladesh but has effectively shown a "red card" only to Jamaat-e-Islami.** He, however, said the party was not concerned by India's position, asserting that Jamaat had no intention of seeking refuge in India because its support lay with the people of Bangladesh. "Our shelter is in the hearts of 180 crore Bangladeshis. We have no need to seek refuge on Indian soil," he said while addressing a discussion and prayer programme marking July Martyrs' Day at the IDB Auditorium in Kakrail. The event, organised by Jamaat-e-Islami Dhaka South, commemorated Abu Sayeed and other martyrs of the July mass uprising (*Times of Bangladesh*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pro-Jamaat lawyers oppose parliamentary body to amend constitution:** Lawyers leaning to opposition in parliament Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami on Thursday criticised the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party government's decision to form a special parliamentary committee to amend the constitution. **They argued that the 12-member committee comprised of treasury bench members had no authority to undertake fundamental constitutional reforms and risked undermining the mandate of constitutional reforms arising from the 2024 July Mass Uprising.** Jamaat and other opposition lawmakers refrained from giving names in the committee formed on Monday as they were offered five posts. Speaking at a discussion tilted constitution reform-referendum-July charter-fifteen amendment: present perspective and future of democracy held at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium under the banner of the National Lawyers' Council, the lawyers said that the basic structure of the constitution should not be altered through a parliamentary committee. Instead, they argued that the reforms of the constitution must be carried out through a Constitution Reform Council as envisaged in the July National Charter, 2025 and the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order, 2025 (*New Age*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Amnesty, HRW, CPJ among five groups urge Bangladesh to free four journalists, drop tribunal proceedings:** Five international rights and press freedom organisations have called on Bangladesh to release four journalists arrested after the July Uprising and drop tribunal proceedings linked to their work. **In a joint statement on Wednesday, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Committee to Protect Journalists, ARTICLE 19 and CIVICUS named Farzana Rupa, Shakil Ahmed, Mozammel Babu and Shyamal Dutta.** The groups said Bangladesh should ensure that journalists are not criminally prosecuted -- particularly for crimes against humanity -- for their reporting. Their concern has grown after the International Crimes Tribunal intensified its investigation against Rupa and Babu, part-owned private Ekattor TV station, over their coverage of the 2013 Shapla Chattar crackdown in Dhaka's Motijheel (*bdnews24.com*, [16 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Ziaur Rahman murder case: Former army officer arrested after 45 years:** The Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested Major (retd) Md Mozaffar Hossain in connection with the assassination of former president Ziaur Rahman. Mozaffar was arrested from the DOHS area in Dhaka around midnight on Wednesday, according to the DMP's DB. DMP Additional Commissioner (DB) Md Shafiqul Islam told Prothom Alo that Mozaffar had been on the run for 45 years before his arrest. **According to DMP sources, after the completion of legal formalities, Mozaffar was handed over to the Bangladesh Army for court-martial proceedings.** Ziaur Rahman, the founder of the BNP, was assassinated in the early hours of 30 May 1981 at the Chattogram Circuit House by a group of rogue army officers. He had travelled to Chattogram the previous day to help resolve internal disputes within the party (*Prothom Alo*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Two policemen injured in 'AL men' attack in Sujanagar:** At least two policemen have been injured after leaders and activists of Awami League allegedly launched an attack on a patrol team following an announcement made over a mosque loudspeaker in Sujanagar, Pabna. The incident occurred around 4:30am Thursday in Doppara area of Mathurapur. The injured are Sujanagar Police Station Officer-in-charge (OC) Mozaffar Hossain and Constable Sabuj Hossain, said Pabna Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Shafiullah. **According to police sources, a patrol team reached the scene in two vehicles following a tip-off that activists led by Abdul Wahab, president of the Sujanagar upazila unit of the Awami League (activities currently banned), were planning "subversive acts."** The suspects reportedly intended to exploit the festive atmosphere surrounding a special World Cup football match that had kept the local community awake until the early hours (*Times of Bangladesh*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **120 AL activists sued in Gopalganj:** A case was filed against 120 leaders and activists of Awami League, political activities of which are currently banned, and its affiliated organisations under Anti-Terrorism Act with Kashiani Thana of Gopalganj for 'planning acts of sabotage'. **Another 200 to 300 unidentified individuals were also named as accused in the case, assistant superintendent of police of Muksudpur Circle Nafisur Rahman confirmed the matter to BSS Thursday morning.** Imdadul Haque, a resident of Dhankora village under Ratail Union, filed the case with Kashiani police station Wednesday night. He is the son of Haji Kayem Uddin Fakir and general secretary of the Ratail Union unit of ruling-Bangladesh Nationalist Party. **According to the first information report, leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations blocked the Dhaka-Khulna Highway at Tilchhara area of the upazila in the afternoon of July 14, creating disorder.** The FIR alleged that as part of a plan to bring fugitive former prime minister Sheikh Hasina back to the country and restore her to power, the accused chanted the slogan 'Joy Bangla' and obstructed vehicular movement, causing fear and resentment among the public. **Meanwhile, no untoward incident was reported in Gopalganj on Thursday, the first anniversary of the violence surrounding the National Citizen Party (NCP)'s "March to Gopalganj" program in 2025, in which five people were killed. Law enforcement agencies remained on alert across the district to maintain law and order** (*New Age*, [16 July 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Intensify drive against AL, BCL, affiliated bodies:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday directed the authorities concerned to strengthen the ongoing drive against the Awami League, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jubo League and other associate organisations. He also instructed law enforcement agencies and the field administration to remain more vigilant to prevent members of the banned organisations from carrying out

activities that could threaten public safety or disrupt law and order. The directives came at a cabinet meeting chaired by the prime minister at the Bangladesh Secretariat, according to meeting insiders. The prime minister asked the authorities to intensify surveillance, identify those involved in criminal and subversive activities, and take legal action against them. They were also instructed to closely monitor the programmes of the banned organisations. The directives came five days after ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who faces a death sentence in Bangladesh, told Reuters that she and senior Awami League leaders planned to return from exile in India around December and surrender. BCL has brought out processions in different parts of the country on various occasions (*The Daily Star*, [17 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Some people trying to exploit students to fish in troubled water:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said that some individuals are attempting to "fish in troubled waters" by using the student protests against the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations, which were held on Monday despite continuous rainfall and widespread waterlogging. **He said a particular group is visibly trying to embarrass the government by concealing its identity while using students to advance the movement. Salahuddin Ahmed made the remarks today, Thursday, at the conference room of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the Secretariat.** Responding to a journalist's question about the ongoing student protests, the Home Minister said many of those participating in the demonstrations are not examination candidates. He noted that the Ministry of Education has already made its position on holding the examinations clear. **According to him, those who are actual candidates are satisfied with the government's explanation, and the issue has been resolved.** Salahuddin Ahmed said the government is not attaching significant importance to the protests because, in his view, the number of people participating is not large (*Prothom Alo*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Fakhrul inaugurates Ratha Yatra festival, calls for harmony, unity:** Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Thursday inaugurated the Shri Shri Jagannath Dev's Ratha Yatra Festival 2026 in the capital, calling for maintaining communal harmony and unity among people of all faiths. **The inauguration ceremony and discussion of the festival were held at Swamibagh Ashram in Dhaka, where the minister attended as the chief guest.** Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Bijan Kanti Sarker and Prime Minister's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar were present as special guests. **Addressing the programme, Mirza Fakhrul said attempts have been made at different times to create divisions in Bangladesh's politics by using religion, but the government does not believe in such politics.** He said the government's aim is to work for the country's development by ensuring the participation of people from all religions and communities in line with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism (*Daily Sun*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Chief whip says No room for communalism, extremism in BNP:** Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni on Thursday said every commitment of the July National Charter will be implemented to the letter, upholding the non-communal spirit that defined the July uprising. He made the comment while inaugurating Rath Yatra at the Madhab Angan of Jashomadhab Mandir at Kayetpara in Dhamrai upazila of Dhaka district. The chief whip said the people of Bangladesh, after a long struggle, witnessed the dawn of a new era in July 2024, one built on non-communal values. **Referring to the prime minister, he said Tarique Rahman has declared that Bangladesh has no minorities, and that Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians are all citizens with equal rights.** He noted that in the past, the minority issue had been politically exploited, with

communal violence, including vandalism of idols, attacks on temples and arson during Durga Puja and other religious festivals, used to sow division among people. The chief whip said such activities now have no place in the country. He also claimed that no attack has taken place on Hindu temples and shrines since the fall of the Awami League authoritarian government in August 2024. (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 July 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [16 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Money laundering deferred resolving ethnic groups' problems, says PM Tarque:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said that many of the problems faced by Bangladesh's small ethnic communities could have been resolved if money was not laundered abroad during the previous government's tenure. He reiterated his commitment to building a "prosperous, equitable, and discrimination-free Bangladesh". **He also said the BNP-led government is currently having to navigate what he described as a "terrible" situation.** The prime minister made these remarks on Thursday afternoon during a meeting with representatives of small ethnic communities at the Public Administration Hall of the Secretariat, said Deputy Press Secretary Md Suzauddhowla. "We want to build the Bangladesh that everyone aspires to by moving forward together. We do not consider anyone to be separate." **The delegation presented several demands, including establishing a Land Commission to resolve land ownership disputes affecting small ethnic communities in the plains, organising a National Convention for indigenous and marginalised communities, and replacing the term "small ethnic community" with identity based on individual ethnic groups. They also demanded constitutional recognition to indigenous peoples and ending of the eviction of ethnic communities from settlements due to development projects or reserved forest declarations** (*bdnews24.com*, [16 July 2026](#)).

❖ **Haridas sent to jail after remand in money laundering case:** A Dhaka court on Thursday sent Haridas Chandra Tarani Das, who came into the spotlight for taking an initiative to build a Ram idol in Gaibandha, to jail after the completion of his four-day remand in a money laundering case. Dhaka Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Joshita Islam passed the order following a hearing. Court sources said CID Inspector KM Rakibul Huda, the investigating officer of the case, sought an order to keep Haridas in jail until the investigation is completed. **Defence lawyer Shyamal Kumar Roy sought bail for Haridas, but the court rejected the plea and ordered that he be sent to jail.** According to the detention plea, Haridas was questioned extensively during remand and provided important information related to the investigation. His statements are now being verified, it said (*Daily Sun*, [16 July 2026](#)).

Economy

❖ **Pakistani firms showcase products at B-Beauty Tech Expo at ICCB:** Pakistani companies from the beauty, cosmetics and wellness sectors are participating in the B-Beauty Tech Expo 2026, which began at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka on Thursday. The three-day exhibition will continue until 18 July, according to a press release issued by the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. **Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider visited the Pakistani stalls at the expo and interacted with the exhibitors. During the visit, the high commissioner highlighted the strong potential for expanding bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan. The participating exhibitors also shared recommendations for strengthening business-to-business (B2B) collaboration between the two countries, the press release added** (*Daily Sun*, [16 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt takes up Tk800cr development plan for Jhalakathi:** Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Health Dr SM Ziauddin Hyder said on Thursday the government has undertaken development projects worth around Tk800 crore for Jhalakathi to improve the district's infrastructure and public services. Speaking at a discussion on development initiatives and the distribution of assistance at the Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila Parishad auditorium, he said the projects would include the construction and improvement of roads, bridges, culverts and other infrastructure across the district. He said Jhalakathi had previously been deprived of expected development as many projects were implemented jointly with neighbouring Pirojpur. Separate development schemes have now been adopted to address the district's specific needs, he added. Dr Hyder also said the government had allocated Tk150 crore to establish the country's first Cultural Village in Jhalakathi, where the history, heritage and culture of the six districts of Barishal division would be showcased (*Daily Sun*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Beyond Farakka: Bangladesh pushes for climate-resilient Ganges Water Treaty:** As Bangladesh and India intensify negotiations to renew the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty before it expires on December 11, 2026, Bangladesh is seeking to restore a guarantee clause to ensure predictable dry-season water flows from one of South Asia's most important transboundary rivers. While Bangladesh has indicated that the existing water-sharing formula remains broadly acceptable, officials say reinstating a legally backed guarantee mechanism—similar to the provision contained in the 1977 Ganges Agreement—has become a key objective of the ongoing negotiations. Water Resources Minister Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie recently said Bangladesh remains hopeful of restoring the guarantee provision. He said: "If we can successfully reintroduce the guarantee clause, we will be able to better protect Bangladesh's national interests." Officials expect negotiations to produce a draft agreement by September or October, leaving sufficient time before the treaty expires. Although the current treaty allocates dry-season water using measurements taken at the Farakka Barrage in India's West Bengal, specialists increasingly argue that the approach no longer reflects changing conditions across the basin. Climate change, rising upstream withdrawals, changing rainfall patterns, and environmental degradation have altered river dynamics across South Asia, making historical allocation formulas increasingly difficult to sustain. **Many experts believe the renewed treaty should therefore expand beyond volumetric water allocation to include: Environmental flow requirements; Water quality monitoring; Sediment management; Biodiversity conservation; Joint hydrological data sharing and Climate adaptation planning** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **IMF raises concerns over banking instability, revenue:** The visiting fact-finding mission of the International Monetary Fund on Thursday flagged concerns over revenue collection and banking sector instability amid high inflation, warning that the situation could worsen due to the escalating war in the Middle East. The IMF delegation, led by Ivo Krznar, raised the issues during a meeting with finance and planning minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the Secretariat, according to officials who attended the meeting. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the finance minister reiterated that the newly elected government was committed to carrying out financial sector reforms in phases to protect public interest. Noting that several reforms have already been carried out, he assured that further necessary reforms would be introduced in a timely and need-based manner. **Thursday's meeting marked the conclusion of the IMF's week-long fact-finding mission ahead of a proposed \$4 billion to \$5 billion loan programme, expected to commence next year. A statement issued by Ivo Krznar on the day**

said that Bangladesh would continue to face significant fiscal, financial sector, and inflation challenges (*New Age*, [17 July 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

◆ **India's goodwill needed to bring back Sheikh Hasina:** Regarding the return of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to Delhi, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said that the political goodwill, diplomatic goodwill, and all kinds of goodwill from the Indian government are needed. She said this in response to journalists' questions on Thursday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **When asked about the return of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced to death in a case of crimes against humanity during the July uprising, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs said, "We hope that the Indian government will respond to the repeated communications and letters we send from the Bangladesh government regarding Sheikh Hasina and other accused who are there, who have been tried in Bangladesh and need to be tried, and will arrange for their return."** Shama Obaed believes that the issue of returning Sheikh Hasina will not disrupt other relations with the Indian government. She said, "Relations will stay where they belong, and bilateral relations between one country and another are multi-dimensional. In that case, we will definitely maintain our relationship. **Our exchanges will continue. Our ongoing dialogue will continue.**" Referring to the visit of the Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier (Retd.) AKM Shamsul Islam to Delhi to attend the BIMSTEC National Security Advisors' meeting, Shama Obaed said, "You will see that our defence adviser is visiting for a BIMSTEC meeting. So, it's a continuous process." Shama Obaed described the execution of Sheikh Hasina's judgment as "extremely important" for the people of Bangladesh, democracy, and history. **In response to a question about the possible visit of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to India, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs said, "No new dates for visits to any country have been set yet. The Prime Minister is very busy with domestic affairs. He has just completed highly successful visits to two countries. Sequentially, visits will be exchanged with all countries"** (*Prothom Alo*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh awaits UAE, India response on Benazir, Hadi murder suspects' extradition:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Thursday said Bangladesh is expecting a prompt response from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India regarding the extradition of former inspector general of police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed and three suspects arrested in connection with the murder of Sharif Osman Hadi. **"We have done everything required under the law to secure the extradition of former IGP Benazir Ahmed from the UAE and the three suspects in the Hadi murder case from India. We hope to receive a response from both governments soon," he said.** The minister made the remarks on Thursday while briefing newsmen on the current issues at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Bangladesh Secretariat. Salahuddin said Benazir Ahmed was arrested in the UAE following an Interpol Red Notice. **Regarding the three suspects, including the prime accused Faisal Karim Masud, the home minister said Bangladesh has also forwarded all necessary documents to the Indian authorities seeking their extradition. He noted that the three suspects are currently facing trial in India on charges of illegal border infiltration, which could delay the extradition process. However, he said under the extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India, they may still be handed over to Bangladesh even while the Indian legal proceedings are ongoing** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 July 2026](#)).

- ◆ **UK, Saudi Arabia reaffirm humanitarian partnership through joint visit to Bangladesh:** Representatives from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) and the British High Commission Dhaka have concluded their first joint visit to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, highlighting the impact of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom's growing humanitarian partnership in support of the Rohingya refugees, reports a press release. During the visit, the delegation met humanitarian partners and community members and observed programmes providing food security assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for Rohingya refugees and host communities. **A total of \$7.8 million is being provided jointly by KSrelief and the UK Government through partners including the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Integrated Social Development Effort (ISDE) Bangladesh, as announced in December 2025 at the UK-KSA Strategic Aid Dialogue.** The visit reflects a deepening humanitarian partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, which includes joint funding initiatives and policy dialogue across multiple humanitarian contexts. It follows the signing of a joint statement between KSrelief and the UK Government in London in December 2025, committing both sides to humanitarian actions in Bangladesh and Yemen (*Prothom Alo*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Saudi Arabia to offer 500 annual scholarships to Bangladeshi students:** Saudi Arabia will provide 500 scholarships annually to Bangladeshi students following the assumption of office by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Saudi Arabia Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Abdullah Zafer H. bin Abiyah made the announcement when he called on Prime Minister's Adviser and his office Spokesperson Dr Mahdi Amin at the Prime Minister's Office here today. During the meeting, the Saudi envoy expressed his country's keen interest in working closely with Bangladesh's new government in various fields, including politics and the economy. **The two sides also held detailed discussions on Saudi Arabia's possible support for the development of Bangladesh's education sector, said an official hand out here.** The meeting also discussed expanding opportunities for exporting skilled Bangladeshi manpower to Saudi Arabia, making access to the Saudi labour market easier and removing existing procedural complexities in the recruitment process (*BSS News*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UK announces £355,000 in aid for flood-hit Bangladesh:** The UK government is providing £355,000, approximately Tk5.7 crore, in life-saving humanitarian assistance to support more than 55,000 people affected by flooding in southeast and northeast Bangladesh. Managed by Start Network and delivered through national and local NGOs, the UK contribution will provide affected communities with cash assistance, food, and hygiene supplies across six worst affected districts – Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Rangamati, Chattogram, Khagrachari, and Moulvibazar, read a press release. **This support builds on £245,000, approximately Tk3.9 crore, in emergency funding released in May 2026 for communities affected by the earlier flooding in the Sylhet region. It brings the UK government's total disaster response support in Bangladesh this year to over £600,000, approximately Tk9.6 crore, alongside ongoing UK support to strengthen Bangladesh's climate resilience.** The UK is also supporting flood-affected communities through its contributions to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) (*Daily Sun*, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **European envoys meet aviation minister over Airbus deal:** Civil aviation and tourism minister Afroza Khanam and state minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat held a meeting with top diplomats from France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany and the European Union at the conference

room of the ministry in Dhaka on Wednesday. **During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening the longstanding friendship and expanding the multifaceted bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the European Union, as well as its member states, said a press release.** They also held comprehensive discussions on enhancing cooperation, particularly in the development of Bangladesh's civil aviation sector. The meeting included detailed discussions on the possible acquisition of Airbus aircraft as part of the fleet expansion programme of Biman Bangladesh Airlines (*New Age*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh to buy both Boeing, Airbus jets to expand Biman fleet:** Bangladesh has decided to purchase both Boeing and Airbus aircraft for Biman Bangladesh Airlines as part of fleet expansion with mixed aircraft, keeping national interests protected. "Our country needs both Boeing and Airbus. We will purchase both," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday. **She said the government is committed to strengthening the country's civil aviation sector while pursuing prudent economic management. "The prime minister inherited a fragile economy from the previous governments. To put the economy on a stronger footing, we need to exercise austerity on the one hand, while also purchasing what the country requires. We need both Boeing and Airbus. We will buy both,"** the state minister said. She said Bangladesh does not give preferential treatment to any particular country. "Absolutely not," she said when asked whether any country was receiving greater preference. "The interests of Bangladesh are always given top priority when it comes to investment," Shama Obaed added. Bangladesh has reportedly expressed its interest in procuring Airbus aircraft to develop a sustainable mixed fleet for the national flag carrier while protecting the country's strategic interests (*Dhaka Tribune*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh, European envoys review expanding strategic partnership, cooperation:** Bangladesh and its European partners today reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their long-standing relations as they held wide-ranging discussions on expanding economic cooperation and collaboration in several strategic sectors of mutual interest. The understanding came at a meeting between Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir and five European ambassadors and senior diplomats stationed in Dhaka at the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon this afternoon. The meeting featured fruitful discussions on the long-standing friendly relations between Bangladesh and its European partners, the growing economic partnership, and a range of issues of mutual interest (*BSS News*, [16 July 2026](#)).

◆ **Rabab Fatima appointed UN envoy for Afghanistan mission:** United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Bangladesh's Rabab Fatima as his Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Fatima succeeds Roza Otunbayeva, former President and Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, to whom the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude for her dedicated service. The Secretary-General also thanked Georgette Gagnon of Canada, Deputy Special Representative of UNAMA, who has been serving as Officer-in-Charge of the mission, according to an announcement issued by the UN Headquarters. Currently serving as the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), Fatima brings more than three decades of experience in national and international civil service. Her experience spans bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, policymaking, advocacy, programme planning and implementation. Before assuming her current UN post, Fatima served as

Bangladesh's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2019 to 2022 (BSS News, [16 July 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **171 more Bangladeshis repatriated from Libya:** A total of 171 Bangladeshi nationals detained at the Ganfuda Detention Centre in Benghazi, Libya, were repatriated to Bangladesh early Thursday. They arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 6:22am on a Buraq Air flight under a voluntary repatriation programme coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, the Libyan government, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said a press release. According to the foreign ministry, most of the returnees had entered Libya illegally with the help of human traffickers while attempting to reach Europe by sea. Many of them reportedly fell victim to abduction and abuse during their stay in Libya (Daily Sun, [16 July 2026](#)).
- ◆ **More than 500 feared dead after boats sink off Myanmar coast, UN says:** Two boats carrying more than 500 people may have capsized off the coast of Myanmar in recent days, UN agencies said on Thursday, as refugees from the war-torn country continue to make perilous maritime journeys in search of safety and better opportunities. "According to preliminary information, the two vessels departed from Myanmar's Rakhine State in late June carrying mostly Rohingya passengers, reportedly including some who had travelled from refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh," the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency said in a joint statement, saying more than 500 were feared dead. "While the incidents and casualty figures have yet to be officially confirmed, UNHCR and IOM are gravely concerned by the potentially devastating loss of life " (bdnews24.com, [16 July 2026](#)).

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